BING

NO 46

THE
INTERNATIONAL
CROSBY CIRCLE

June 1977

Edited by REG BRISTO

The International Crosby Circle:
Dedicated to all those who have an abiding interest in the world's greatest entertainer.

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All members are cordially invited to contribute to these pages, either by article or letter; and to express their views on the many facets of the peerless Bing Crosby. For particular queries, views, news address under the headings above.

All members are valued - whether they remember Bing from the early 30's, or whether they have just "discovered" Mr. C!

No. 46, June 1977

SPECIAL NOTICE TO BING RECORD & CASSETTE COLLECTORS "AT HOME"

VERA ROBERTS has received a bid for the entire collection of her late husband from outside the ICC. Altho' wishing to dispose of it as soon as possible Vera has decided that providing response is forthcoming, to offer YOU, the real collectors, first opportunity to possess part of this fabulous collection. She reserves the right to withdraw the offer if insufficient support is evinced.

It is impossible to LIST the collection, but the following will be available:

78rpm Commercial Records 10" nearly all labels - some of course very rare.
" " " 12" " " " Most " " " "
LPs 10" - mostly English. LPS 12" many different labels with the UK (some rare)
45rpm commercial records. 45rpm EP's

"V" Discs 78rpm 12" complete set, but will split.
16" transcription records.
Cassettes commercial - many labels; 8-track cartridges, commercial - many labels.
Please refer to LPography and other published lists. BIDS MUST BE IN BY 4 WEEKS FROM 21st JUNE BIDS MUST BE IN WRITING: SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST PAY BY CASH, MONEY ORDER, POSTAL ORDERS. REGRET CHEQUES UNACCEPTABLE BUYERS MUST ARRANGE TO COLLECT OR DELEGATE SOMEONE IN THE AREA TO COLLECT ON THEIR BEHALF THERE CAN, ALAS, BE NO POSTING OF RECORDS, CASSETTES &C. OWING TO THE VASTNESS OF THE COLLECTION ONLY THE ABOVE NOW BEING OFFER. IF SUCCESSFUL, OTHER ITEMS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. NO CALLERS UNTIL NOTIFIED. IF NOT COLLECTED WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF NOTIFICATION ITEMS WILL BE SOLD TO NEXT BIDDER

IT WAS BOB'S WISH THAT A DONATION FROM THE PROCEEDS BE GIVEN TO CANCER RESEARCH.
BID/WRITE TO MRS. VERA ROBERTS, 56 THOROLD RD., CHATHAM, KENT, ENCLOSING SAE.

IN MEMORIAM: BOB ROBERTS:

We have the grievous task of recording that our long-time colleague, member and friend, BOB ROBERTS, passed away on March 19th last. Bob died after a comparatively short illness for it was only just before last Christmas that his illness was diagnosed - that frightful and continuing scourge to mankind, cancer of the bronchial tubes.

It appears that while we couldn't bring ourselves to write in BING what Bob himself was saying with incredible fortitude - "Seems I haven't a lot of time...."..some readers did detect an ominous note when we mentioned in the last issue that Bob wasn't making the improvement expected; that he had, in fact, disposed of his business and was having to make his bedroom downstairs.

To most readers, however, as indeed to us who knew, the final blow was a tremendous shock even tho' it rapidly took on the appearance of inevitability.

It will take some adjusting to to understand that Bob, known to so many because of his generous taping activities, and his friendly correspondence (for that is the way of scattered Crosbyana), is no longer with us after being so joyfully thrilled as we all were last June-July...how little we all knew on that hot, sultry yet exciting and emotional evening what was in store.

Bob was, of course, very well known to Bing and had met him on many occasions, often providing Bing with records and tapes &c. Early in his illness Bob had a letter from Mr. Crosby in which the latter said "...I am praying, and pulling for you Bob...." It is understood, too, that Mrs. Roberts - Vera, of course - has received a moving letter of condolence from Bing which will, of course, remain private.

Bob was claimed - almost certainly rightly - to be the greatest and most prolific Crosby-collector in the world - and he had a mention to this effect in that well-thumbed publication, THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS. He collaborated with other long-time colleagues on the compilation of what remains the definitive discography, THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY, as well as the film- encyclopaedia, THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD. That Bob went to amazing lengths, not to mention expense, towards furthering his enormous collection and subsequently freely and generously made his rare material available to others is well known.

His death is an untimely and crushing blow to Crosbyana...

BING: Quarterly Magazine of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - No. 46 June 1977

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A Man for All Seasons by John Bignell;
Readers' Letters.

Impossible to present our usual cheerful chronicle of Crosbyana on this occasion; grievous loss and incredible accidents to not make for jollity.

The question on everybody's lips is: HOW IS BING? and IS HE GETTING BETTER? - and even, WILL HE BE HERE THIS YEAR?

Understandably too. It still seems like a bad dream that, at the end of a highly successful show, Mr. Crosby had the incredible misfortune to fall 20-feet from stage to pit.....News is scanty - and we fear that is because it must be virtually impossible to make any forecasts. What we do know is contained herein; but no-one who has suffered a back injury, albeit at a much younger age than Bing's, will know the impossibility of forecasting when one will "feel better". We have chronicled what news there is, including a letter from Leo Lynn - but that merely shows what we have been indicating: Who can tell?

Summer is here; Epsom has come and gone...the golf-courses are green and lush...but there is no Bing...yet. The very latest news was that he was still recuperating down in Texas....

And once again, Bing has been overwhelmed with "get well" messages.... some of you may have already received the neat little card which says:

> Thank you so much for your concern and your good wishes during my hospitalisation.
>
> Many thanks. BING CROSBY

Our most profound hope is that our gloom is misplaced...as Leslie Gaylor writes, later on, "Bing is a most resilient character..." If there IS more concrete news we will squeeze it in somewhere before this is posted to you.

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No members of the International Crosby Circle - and for that matter, nobody who has collected and cossetted Crosby records for the past ten, twenty, thirty, forty, nay fifty years, would ever remotely admit that Bing has been in the background - tho' its true to say that's often the way its appeared that Bing himself wanted it to be....

Yet undeniably, the 'Seventies, forsooth, with Mr. Crosby a septuagenarian, have seen a resurgence in his career that has everyone marvelling. And with good reason.

Bing has at last, although that was not his intention perhaps, given the people of Britain the opportunity to show him in no uncertain terms just how valued, respected, admired he is - even loved, over here. Parkinson Shows, golf-course appearances; TV specials, new recordings (for Ken Barnes in London no less!), reissues of his older material in unceasing fashion culminated in that truly remarkable and equally unforgettable series of concerts in London, Edinburgh and Dublin as well as in the States; and with Australia and Germany projected the sky was blue and cloudless and the manner in which Bing was performing (and standing up to it!) augured so well for the future.

So, there was little doubt that when 1977 rolled around the "HAPPY NEW YEAR! greetings were as heartfelt as ever BUT, for Crosbyites, they must have carried the underlying thought: And What a Year this is going to be for us again!

Yet the year had barely started, it seemed, when Crosbyana was dealt two stunning blows, calculated to cloud the horizon perhaps for at least the rest of ill-fated 1977.

The first, lamentably, you have read about - the demise of one of our most popular and long-standing members, Bob Roberts.

The second, that incredible mishap to Mr. Crosby which filled the whole world with concern. And with good reason. Such a fall for a young man, with its resultant back injury, can often prove a lifelong legacy of inconvenience and pain. In a man of Bing's age the effects can be disastrous - and certainly will be so far as his anticipated activities for this year are concerned. News is not easy to come by - the newspapers are particularly infuriating with their "news" stories which left us with no follow-up - but the signs are that Bing has certainly got to rest for a long time to come. His projected visits to Britain, even if they were for social and pleasurable pursuits and not for the Palladium again, must now be in jeopardy. Which is a disaster of the first magnitude for his countless British admirers. What news we have is contained further on in this issue.

For now, all we can do is to repeat our earnest wishes for a speedy and complete recovery for - and to - Bing coupled with the hope that he is not suffering too much pain and discomfort.

LESLIE GAYLOR WRITES —

When I speculated, in my notes of the last issue, as to the kind of year 1977 would prove I was, I am certain, full of optimism and anticipation. How could it fail to be another wonderful year for Bing admirers after the preceding couple? And with Bing so firmly into his latest activity of stage concerts, and the indications so firm that he would be back here in Britain once more recording, seemed nothing could stop the New Year following an exciting pattern.

How little we know when we are sailing along so optimistically what is in store? Then came the news of Bing's sad fall - and the even sadder news of the passing of a real good old friend.

As you will gather elsewhere in this issue, concrete news is hard to come by. What I have received from Leo Lynn in the Crosby office is passed on via this issue. But it is little. But there is one thing certain: Bing is a man with excellent recuperative powers as past experience has shewn. This combined with his very individual ability to "school" himself, may yet see Bing back on the active scene more quickly than we dared hope at one time. I know I speak for everyone - certainly everyone who reads this magazine - that it is hoped that day soon comes.

I cannot tell what, now, will happen regarding the proposed SEASONS album Bing was due to record for Ken Barnes/Pete Moore. We can only wait and see.

I have been able to get hold of the two-record set entitled BING CROSBY "AT HIS RAREST OF ALL RARE PERFORMANCES" - another extravagant title, which Bert Bishop deals with in his KEEPING TRACK. Issued only in Belgium, about half the titles are on the Musidisc and Windmill releases with which we are familiar; but there is a number of 1944 Kraft tracks on LP for the first time, songs like ONLY A PAPER MOON, THANKS, I'LL GET BY &C. Big snag I found over the whole of the recording is the amount of "top" (treble) response either put on, or inherent in the original recordings. This takes the gloss off things somewhat. The two excellent photographs on the sleeve were, if I remember correctly, taken at the Wembley Studios London when Bing recorded a TV show there in 1961.

I have also acquired the 4-record set, also mentioned by Bert of course, of BING CROSBY - HRB PROUDLY PRESENTS ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN SHOW BIZ. The really surprising thing about this set is that it is issued on Japanese Victor! We have a "blurb" which proclaims that, as far as the writer knows, it is only obtainable in Japan. Well, my copy came from America. This literature actually gives the titles - over 50 of them - in English AND Japanese - and most odd, it looks. A Jack Vaughn, c/o TAKAYAMA, INC. 1-1-12 Yushima Bunkyo-Ku Tokyo 113, Japan is offering the set in return for some good tapings of Crosby material that has eluded him - presumably for further issues of this nature. Bert Bishop has been asked to undertake some communication with Mr. Vaughn. Much could come of it. The set costs 9.95 (around £5-6) and the recording quality is excellent "much better" says the leaflet "to most 'radio show' material....the odd thing, as you will read in KEEPING TRACK, is that amongst all this radio material are inserted eight songs from the Longines set!.

(Les continues on p.40

REMEMBERING BOB.....

While the passing of Bob Roberts will come as a shock to the majority of members, some of his more personal friends were, naturally, closer to the melancholy scene. They want to pay tribute to his memory...

"MY BUDDY" - ERIC GRIFFITHS

Soon after 7 o'c on Saturday morning the 19th March the telephone rang. I got out of bed thinking about wrong numbers but, alas, it wasn't. It was Vera to tell me the sad news of Bob's passing early that morning. Although I should have known it would happen, I was nevertheless stunned. My wife Joan came down and I didn't have to tell her, she knew... It took a little time for both of us to recover as we felt as if we were part of Bob's family and had lost more than a friend.

We knew, too, that a very brave man had fought right to the end, never surrendering interest in anything, despite the fact that he knew the truth of his illness. Together with his wife and family they had all played a tremendous part in carrying on as normally as possible.

I remember so many moments of joy for which I can thank Bob from the time we first met. It was in the 50's at a meeting Jack Manners held. We got talking in a corner about non-commercial material and decided we would exchange everything possible. At that time my collection was just slightly larger than Bob's and he admitted I gave him more than he could offer - at that time. He was, however, to adjust the balance many times over in the years that followed. Bob and Vera were then combining the running of a Co-op branch at Sarratt and bring up a family of two boys and a girl. It was some time before Bob was in a position to go all out on collecting every Bing item he could lay his hands on.

It was in 1961 that Bob insisted that Joan and I join him and Vera to meet Bing on the film set of 'Road to Hong Kong'. Bing insisted, I remember, that we all had our photograph taken with him. We all treasured that moment.

In 1964 fate brought us within easy reach of each other. Bob had bought a business in Chatham and Joan and I moved near to Maidstone. I thus became a regular visitor and was always made so welcome that I felt I had become one of the family and although my wife had not the same enthusiasm for Bing collecting as Bob and I, she also felt like one of the family, sharing other interests with Vera. There were odd occasions when, through work, I would not

No one could have been more courageous than Bob Roberts when faced with the tragic, inevitable, truth about his illness. He had insisted that his doctor should be frank and honest with him and he faced the end calmly and bravely but not without hope that a miracle would happen. It didn't, but Bob remained cheerful and optimistic to the end. He had been my friend for nearly 25 years and in that time we maintained a close personal contact by letter, 'phone and tape (we wore out a few on our monthly exchange basis) in addition to Tape Crosby and Tape Evergreen. We worked in complete accord and amity on the Bing discography and, later, the Films book. Since our first meeting - I dimly recall that it was at one of Bill Taylor's meetings - we visited each other and when, earlier this month (March), I went to see him we both realised the unspoken thought that it might be for the last time. Notwithstanding the circumstances Bob was amazingly bright and cheerful. I shall miss him as a fellow Bing-enthusiast but much more I shall miss him as a close friend for whom I had every respect and affection.

FRED REYNOLDS.

be able to make my weekly visit to Chatham, Bob and Vera would then come down to us on a Sunday. Our close association carried on for over twelve years when - for employment reasons - we had to move away.

In 1974 Bob and I were heard on Radio Medway; another occasion when Bob insisted I join him. Naturally, the programme was about Bing, and also for that matter about Bob himself, just then entered in the Guinness Book of Records on account of his Crosby activities. I was very happy to be a supporting "bit" player on that interesting occasion. I recall the many happy hours we spent in Bob's 'Crosby Room', often just sorting out the mysteries of non-commercial material...he would do all the writing while I would put down all the information and listings.

And our last great times together were at the London Palladium; and what a fortnight that was....but it was only shortly after that momentous time that Vera told us that Bob wasn't well....he went to hospital, and on his return home we kept up a regular telephone contact until that sombre Saturday.

On Friday 25th March, Joan and I felt privileged to be present at the final farewell to 'my buddy'. The funeral was a quiet family affair and we were indeed part of the family we felt. There were many flowers and tributes from Crosby enthusiasts and other friends. So, I took leave of Bob - who remained incredibly courageous right to the end.

There is now an added poignancy in the fact that Bing recently recorded "When I Leave the World Behind" for Bob specially asked him to record this song.

Many members have commented on Bob's special pleasure in Bing recording that song. A floral tribute on behalf of all members of the ICC was arranged for Bob's funeral - Editor.

JOHN BASSETT writes:

Bob had been a 'household name' at "Bingville" since he first wrote to me in 1968 and during our eight years of correspondence I always found him to be helpful, sincere, and fully devoted to his work and his hobby.

It is particularly sad that Bob will never hear all that Bing has to offer us on record, for I can think of no other collector who truly deserved the listening pleasure of a complete collection, the fulfilment of which he will never see.

His passing will be a tremendous loss to the ICC and all who knew him.

From LESLIE GAYLOR: I must pay tribute to that grand Bing collector and great friend of mine, the late Bob Roberts. Bob was a giant in the world of Crosbyana and as dedicated an admirer of the maestro as anyone in the world. Bob pursued his aim of a full collection relentlessly and eventually arrived at the situation where he probably had it - and I know it gave him, and his wife, Vera, tremendous pleasure. More than that, he saw to it that it gave others pleasure, too. Bob for certain is going to be missed very much indeed. I know, too, that Bing himself regarded Bob as a fine friend for they had a lot of contact over the years. It cannot be the same again without Bob Roberts....

From Spain:

Two weeks before my trip to London I wrote to Bob Roberts asking him if he was going to be at home on March 6 - a Sunday - because my wife and I had planned to pay a visit. Bob answered me, telling me of his illness.

On the Sunday we went to Chatham and his wife Vera welcomed us and took us to his room...it was the first time I met Bob and, most unhappily, the last. We greeted each other warmly..and with affection. His serenity and peacefulness struck me. For more than five years Bob had supplied me with Bing material.

Many of you will have known him better than I; many have worked with him on different projects for Crosbyana and perhaps knew him much longer than I did. When his wife Vera wrote to me the sad news of his death on March 19th I felt that all of us had lost a good and faithful friend.

I close these lines remembering the ending of Bob's first letter to me: "I've followed Bing's fantastic career since 1930 and have met him many times Carlos...he's truly great.."

And I add you too, Bob, were truly great.

CARLOS UBACH (Sabadell, Spain)

RAY FORSTER, Liverpool: I sent Bob Roberts a copy of the Christmas 'phone call cassette. He responded by sending me a cassette of something which I wanted which more than repaid my effort. He indicated he was still doing a bit at that time. And it occurred to me that he then probably had more time for listening than doing, so I sent him a copy of my favourite cassette, which is a compilation of the film recalls Bing did in the 1945 Kraft Shows - but with most of the announcements and guff cut out, leaving a brief intro by Bing and the '45 version of songs from 19 of his earlier films. I also enclosed a blank cheque and a request for "How the West Was Won" on cassette with a strict admonishment not to bother if he didn't feel up to it. So what does Bob do? He sent me TWO cassettes with a very nice letter - and returns my cheque. How does one repay such a man? And now, I cannot.

Editor: These tributes could be repeated indefinitely; they show the calibre of the man we've lost - and leave me little to say. I wasn't able to visit Chatham in the way I would have liked to have done. But I did meet Bob several times and always we had an underlying rapport. We were on the same wavelength. It was the same in our correspondence - particularly in the last letters Bob wrote where, as has been demonstrated, his fortitude was quite astonishing. And even when his early optimism was dashed he remained serene - "I probably haven't much time but I feel okay until the afternoons..." A more desolating experience can hardly be imagined. It remains only to repeat to Vera the utmost sympathy and condolences of all members of the Circle. And Vera has sent us the following message:

> My family and I wish to thank all the members for their kind letters and cards of sympathy, also for the many floral tributes. To answer them all personally would be an impossible task. It is clear from the letters that Bob gave much pleasure through his taping activities.

(Cont.)

I worked closely with him on this project and we made many friends - some we never met personally but felt we knew very well. He faced death with great courage and I have had inscribed in the Book of Remembrance at the crematorium: HIS COURAGE GAVE US STRENGTH.

This is how we the family felt and I know it was felt by all who knew Bob.

VERA ROBERTS.

R.I.P.

BING'S FALL

Although the main feeling was consternation, few of us knew what to make of the first early paragraphs that appeared in the newspapers. Was it serious? Well, the papers said Bing joked about it - BUT he was in hospital. Ah, but the doctors said he would probably be released the next day. Then, after a frustrating lapse, it began to look a lot more ominous: BING TO STAY IN HOSPITAL; BING GETTING BETTER: BING MAY NEED SURGERY; CROSBY HAS RUPTURED DISC...BING MOVED... Things were taking on a new note, especially when after three weeks Bing was still in hospital.

But what really happened? The papers referred to a "fall from the stage"; or a plunge from the stage. Then 20 feet was mentioned! My goodness, this was no trivial fall...if any fall is trivial at 70 years of age plus.

So we were relieved to at last get the full story, via our good correspondent, DICK PEARSON, as it appeared in the American papers:

SAVED BY SCENERY: BING DISCOVERS TV HAS MANY PITFALLS

Hollywood, March 8

Bing Crosby was released from Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena Saturday (5) none the worse for the temporary wear and tear after a perilous tumble while taping a CBS-TV special commemorating his 50th anniversary in show business at the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena two nights earlier.

The 72-year-old performer broke his fall from the proscenium into a 20-foot orchestra pit when he lunged for a piece of scenery along the pit wall. He clung to it until he was some six feet from the bottom, then dropped to the surface, sustaining what turned out to be minor back injuries, a superficial head cut and bruises. Hospital X-Rays revealed no fractures.

A capacity turn-out of 1,200 was on its feet in a standing ovation when Crosby, at the show's end, stepped forward to take another bow and lost his balance. His right shoe came off and his right sock was torn in the plunge.

Crosby kept quipping as three doctors in the audience attended him, and his wife Kathy, her hair in curlers, rushed to his side and cradled him in her arms. Fellow entertainers Bob Hope and Paul Anka - appearing in the show with him - also rushed to his side, and Crosby quipped "I'll see you at rehearsal tomorrow morning."

He laughed at the mishap as a socko ending for the special and said, "We ought to include it in the show."

CUT FROM THE SHOW

The tape was still rolling when the incident occurred, but producer-director Marty Pasetta said the episode will be deleted in the final cut. Scheduled taping of a cut-in sketch with Jack Albertson Friday morning was cancelled.

"Grabbing the scenery saved his life," Pasetta stated. "He floated down. It acted like a parachute, and it softened and

and tempered his fall. Six feet from the bottom he let go and landed on his backside."

Crosby sang to paramedics as an ambulance took him to the hospital. He was not placed under sedation.

The pit was the subject of frequent quips during the three-hour-plus taping session. The third time Joe Bushkin and his Trio were lowered on the disappearing orchestra platform, Bushkin said "We're going down for the last time - like the Titanic." Once Crosby peered into the pit and said "I hope they don't get lost down there!"

Hope cancelled an engagement back east so he could visit his old road partner in the hospital and offer his services to Pasetta for any pickups that might be necessary.

The show airs March 20. Also featured are Rosemary Clooney, Bettery Midler, the Mills Brothers and Kathryn Crosby.

Thus a detailed account of what really happened. Even so, being written so early it proved misleading. Bing was not, of course, released from the Pasadena Hospital until much later - and then he was moved by air to one nearer his home in San Francisco. Then it was revealed that Bing was, despite earlier jokings, in considerable pain in his legs and back. There followed the really bad news: that he had ruptured a disc in his lower back.

The next stage was a little more encouraging for it was reported that Bing had left the hospital, leaning on a stick and with his hand on Kathryn's shoulder. He sang to the staff as he left - but would make no comment to waiting newsmen.

Shortly afterwards, LESLIE GAYLOR received more positive news in a letter from LEO LYNN; this indicated that Bing was indeed home - and was to take exercise, and be X-Rayed each week to check on the healing of the ruptured disc. Surgery, it was said, may not be necessary. Earlier, Leo (who runs the Crosby office these days) had written, again to Les Gaylor:

> Its three weeks today since Bing was injured. He is still receiving therapy treatments and diagnosis. At the moment Leslie no one can say exactly when he will be released from the hospital. It could be a week, or it could be a longer period of time.
>
> I know you and his many friends hope he will soon be up and about....

We certainly do. But now its clear that everything was miscalculated from the start. It was charadteristic of Bing himself to attempt to laugh it off but as we remarked earlier, such a fall in a man 40 years junior to Bing would have been serious and had long-term and unpleasant consequences. The last news report seen over here said that Bing had spent a "subdued" 73rd birthday.... being taken to dinner by Nathaniel.

On everybody's behalf I wrote to Bing on 24th March as follows:

> Everyone here aghast at your accident. Even more so to learn that you are still in hospital - after earlier reassurances that you were being released from hospital after a day or so. I send greetings on behalf of the Circle with the fervent wish for a speedy and complete recovery.

It is a matter of great puzzlement here that there was a pit of this depth for anyone to fall in.

Apart from the double album LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM, we now have FEELS GOOD and, more recently, BINGO VIEJO. Everyone appears delighted with all of them - and perhaps the Latin-American is coming in for especially enthusiastic appreciation.

Your fall produced some excellent "leaders", two of which are enclosed as you may not have seen them.

We hope to have reassuring news real soon...

With warmest best wishes,

Reg Bristo.

As happened just over two years ago with Bing's lung illness/operation, his office has once again been overwhelmed with "get well soon" letters and cards but no doubt Bing will, through his office, meticulously acknowledge them all. But its obviously going to take time.

We can only hope that our pessimism is unfounded; any further news will be printed elsewhere in this issue. The bright hopes for 1977 have indeed received a tremendous setback; and above all, of course, its most disastrous for Bing. He has the pain and inconvenience and seems likely to be denied that trip he so obviously loves - to the golfcourses and racetracks of Britain.

It seems almost unbelievable that such an accident should have befallen Bing, when he was so magnificently into his stride in his "new-found" career of stage appearances - for charity. Which raises another question: there may well be legal repercussions for such an accident. Surely a lot of questions must be asked as to why ANY artist could risk falling such a distance clear from the stage. Bing is not likely to worry about "loss of earnings" as, for certain, other and certainly younger artists would - and rightly so - except that in Bing's case the people who are going to lose out are the handicapped and sick people who would have benefitted from the various charities the proceeds of Bing's shows were donated to. Its a sombre thought - and certainly one that will be in Bing's mind.

As I write this, Epsom is under way - and Bing would have loved to have been there, even tho' they barred him (again!) from the Royal Enclosure! How great it would be to turn on the radio tomorrow morning - and learn that Bing is indeed here, despite our forebodings!

Many members, not knowing Bing's address, sent their greetings through me for transmission to Bing. Some of the younger members, particularly the ladies, went to a lot of trouble to make their efforts endearing and artistic. All have been passed on to the Crosby office.

And what of the show that preceded this disastrous fall? Happily, we have, also from America, a review of it and it appears on the next page. There is every hope that it will be seen here eventually though no date is yet available. Veteran members will be most interested to learn that the celebrated Mills Brothers were on the show; a friend who keeps in touch with the Brothers had word from them that they spent a lot of time with Bing while the show as being recorded - and during it they sang SHINE!

Reprinted from VARIETY,
(US) of Weds. March 23 1977

BING...A 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA -

WITH Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Paul Anka, Pearl Bailey, Joe Bushkin, Rosemary Clooney, Kathryn Crosby, Harry Crosby, Mary Frances Crosby, Nathaniel Crosby, Sandy Duncan, The Mills Brothers, Donald O'Connor, Martha Raye, Debbie Reynolds, Anson Williams, Bette Midler.

Supplier: Konigsberg Co.
Exec Producer: Frank Konigsberg
Producer-Director: Marty Pasetta.
Writer: Buz Kohan.
90 mins. Sun (20) 9pm
Kraft Foods (JWT)
CBS-TV

There is probably no one more deserving of having his 50th show biz celebrated on TV than Bing Crosby. He was a staple during the golden age of radio and a regular "special" performer through most of the TV years. He is the last word in household words. The pity is that CBS, for which most of his work was done over the years, couldn't have come up with a better show to cap his half-century

The problem wasn't with the guests, nor with the production (staged before an appreciative 'invited black-tie' audience). The trouble started after a glib but polished intro by Crosby's old 'Road' mate Bob Hope and an 'Of Bing We Sing' rouser with Hope, Sandy Duncan, Martha Raye, Ansol Williams, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor. The producers felt it necessary to intro Bette Midler as a singing usherette. She came up to spread coyness and clumsy cavorting on stage with Crosby and the Mills Brothers. Her singing was fine, but her antics hit a sour note in the proceedings. It was difficult to find a reason for her presence. With few TV credits in her past, she can hardly be well enough known (outside of New York and Los Angeles) to bag much of a general audience. Certainly she doesn't have the major star credentials to justify the on-stage treatment she got on the show.

Pearl Bailey, too, was introed from the audience and much time was consumed in banter that wasn't particularly funny before she got on stage for her Crosby duet. Far better was the more normal intros for the Mills Brothers and Joe Bushkin, who performed up to their high standards.

But the occasion was Crosby, and the audience got what it tuned in for in most numbers. If the singer has lost a little off his fast ball in repartee, and if he seemed to limit his singing throughout, the deft touch with a tune and a lyric remained. No one has ever had a surer grasp of popular music than Crosby and, in a 30-second bit with Paul Anka, he showed that he could handle today's musical idiom if he'd a mind to.

He did one number with wife Kathryn that went well. But he might be better advised to leave the kids home next time or let them watch from the audience. - Fob.

Editor: Hmmmm....the unfortunate Bette Midler! Personally, I've never heard of her but here's one critic who clearly felt she was de trop! Still, we well know one doesn't necessarily take too

much notice of critics. It seems to be a point of honour with them to find at least some fault, no matter how enjoyable the show is to the general public. We can only wait and see, of course.

It was certainly an assorted cast-list with Bob Hope (inevitably), Donald O'Connor, Paul Anka, Debbie Reynolds et al but the artists who will bring most pleasure will almost certainly be the famous Mills Brothers, true contemporaries of Bing from the earliest days. It was certainly a happy inspiration on somebody's part - it could easily have been Bing himself - to include the group who have themselves become legends; and deservedly so for they have set a quite unmatchable standard with their immaculate singing. There are those among us who treasure the few records - four was it? - they made with Bing way, way back. This wasn't, of course, a reunion with Bing from those early days for they often appeared on radio with Bing in the 40's. And many of us, again, feel a recording tie-up with Bing and the Mills Brothers would be a very viable proposition today - if Ken Barnes is listening!

VARIETY, as we've indicated above, is the American "trade" paper for show-business - and it is written in pure Americanese which isn't always easy to follow! For example "....'Bing' pulled a 37 share good for 12th..." Which I feel probably means the anniversary show claimed 37 per cent of the American watching audience and was 12th in popularity listings? But I don't really know.

Another important item in this paper, dated March 22, runs as follows:

"Mel Shavelson is scripting 'The Road to the Fountain of Youth' as a vehicle for Hope and Bing Crosby, and British tycoon Lew Grade wants to see the property, said Hope, who will show it to Crosby when he recovers from that recent fall. Ben Starr has written another 'Road' film for the pair".

A final word on the 50th Anniversary Show (above): Martha Raye is still going strong! A name that will mean nothing to anyone under say 50! One of the few funny comediennes of the 30's (in films) who most remarked on physical feature was her large and mobile, not to mention vociferous 'north and south' - "mouth" to those unable to interpret rhyming slang!

It will be recalled that CHRISTIE'S included in their catalogue for auction last October some letters written by Bing. Seems they fetched £240 - which seems quite a high price. It could be argued that selling the private letters of someone still very much alive is rather unethical - a betrayal of confidence. True we often print letters by Bing - because they are of great interest to other members but there is no gain, no auction, attached to them. Be that as it may, there was an article on the subject in THE SUNDAY TIMES of April 3rd last which stated, among other things:

"Selling the letters of living celebrities is quite legal, though not without risk. Christie's recently got hold of a collection of letters written by Bing Crosby which were so scathing about certain showbiz characters that Sarah Ward was afraid to catalogue them for fear of a libel suit, and returned them to the sender."

I wonder? This would be so uncharacteristic of Mr. C. its hard to believe. Journalists will go to any lengths to "sensationalise" a story....if true, WHO was Bing scathing about? Any suggestions?

KEEPING TRACK WITH BERT BISHOP

* * * * *

...a long, meandering, track it is too - but full of the delightful Crosbyana you appear to love...but first, an amusing little letter from Bernard Denham from California:

> "I really enjoy your magazine and fine the various features interesting, varied and lively. On the latter point, I am entertained (good-naturedly, I assure you) by the differences of opinion expressed by you, Bristo, Bassett, Bignell and Bishop..."

Busy lot of B's aren't we? Anyway, let Bert Bishop take you by the hand....

And let's get away with:

BING CROSBY - A LEGENDARY PERFORMER (Enclosed; Illustrated booklet)
RCA PL 12086 Mono £3.69p UK
CPL1-2086 (e) Stereo US

Ol' Man River
Three Little Words
It Must be True
Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams (And dream your troubles Away)
Just a Gigolo
I'm Through with Love.
Just one more Chance
Some Sunny Day
I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a letter
Mack the Knife
Dream a Little Dream of Me
Whispering
Down Among the Sheltering Palms

Although RCA have already celebrated Bing's 50th Anniversary by the release of the 2-LP set THIS IS...BING CROSBY, the timely reissue of this latest album in their Legendary Performers series indicates a further nod to the Old Groaner in both words and music.

Whilst the package is welcome and interesting, one cannot help but reflect on the expense of it, bearing in mind that Decca and United Artists are able to bring us NEW material at far less cost. But for all that, it is a striking presentation though one could say that its certainly not representative of the Bing Crosby known to the public at large - the hard-core middle-Twenties output is just not in the RCA archives.

Setting aside the shortcomings, however, we'll go over the good points; and the first that strikes us is the pictorial inner-sleeve by way of the photograph, a lovely one, of the young Bing - about 22 years old - coloured and framed within the circular cut-out of the outer sleeve. Its a rare picture; repeated on the back of the booklet and well worth framing for the Crosby den, as the producer - Ethel Gabriel - suggests.

Staying with the booklet for another paragraph there's just one more shortcoming which cannot be sidestepped too easily - and that is the terrible portrait of Bing as depicted on the front cover. Painted by one J. Ernell as such, I can only say its nearly the worst professionally used painting of Bing I've ever seen. (The MFP BING CROSBY LP gets the No. 1 award). Staring blue eyes, each looking in a different direction, and Bing untypically smoking a cigarette. Its not even a recognisable caricature. Let's turn the page quickly!

From hereon the booklet becomes a very desirable collection of Crosbyana,

with well over two dozen shots of Bing at every age as an adult, and in many guises. They accompany a potted biography by George T. Simon that leads into an introduction of all the tracks on the album. A couple of minor errors creep in with MUDDY WATERS, which has a superfluous "s" and The Brock Sisters, which should of course be Brox; but basically it is well-written to present 'the most legendary of all legendary performers'. After all, what is left that can be said about Bing Crosby that hasn't been said a thousand times before?

US RCA usually come up with a better-looking label - certainly more nostalgic - than the UK counterparts, and this reissue is no exception: gold lettering on black as opposed to the British RCA Victor modern style yellow label.

Now to the nub - the Crosby vocals - and for openers we have the song that Bing has commercially recorded more times than any other - including his signature tune but discounting alternative takes. This one is the first of them; January 1928; and Bing cutting his third solo with Whiteman. There follows a welcome infusion with THREE LITTLE WORDS - the Rhythm Boys and Duke Ellington. This is a one-off combination not found on many LPs. The third track is a Harry Barris song written, according to Bing, as an alternative theme tune to OLD BLUE. It was never required in that capacity and certainly doesn't match up to such a requirement, not as a song. Bing's recording of it, too, suggests that he is still only on the threshold of finding his style - developing his phrasing - and reaching that early maturity.

Sixteen months later, and with Gus Arnheim and the Cocoanut Grove Orchestra as backing and experience Bing is heard with what must be in the reckoning as his first big hit: WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS. Now we have the phrasing which is the footing for all that follows; and only the younger Russ Columbo threatens serious rivalry. Recorded on the same day is the set piece, JUST A GIGOLO, the sad little ballad of the ageing war-hero thirteen years on, sensuously sung as the lyric demands.

Closing the first "early Bing" half of the programme are the two songs which Bing sang on his very first coast-to-coast radio broadcast...not just the songs, for these are the actual recordings for that occasion. It has been suggested that the orchestra was under the direction of Freddie Rich, the CBS musical conductor for the decade 1928-38 though others opt for Victor Young. In either event these tracks are welcome variations on what till a few years ago were the standard commercial recordings.

With side two there is a jump of 26 years for tracks from a couple of sessions with Bob Scobey's Frisco Jazz Band that were arranged for an album originally called BING WITH A BEAT; and LP that has not been the subject for reissue on any great scale. Indeed, one can only turn to the RCA Anniversary doubler for repeat tracks from those February 1957 recordings - and on that, MACK THE KNIFE was omitted. So its inclusion here is seen as most welcome for members who don't have the original LP. Otherwise everything breezes along as before, with Bing obviously enjoying sitting in with the band - and ad-libbing to his heart's content. The only perceivable difference is the omission of his introductory "A-one, a-two" at the commencement of WHISPERING which can be heard on BING WITH A BEAT and THIS IS....BING CROSBY.

For some reason the UK release has been put out in mono as against the stereophonically enhanced US version. Whether it is an 'enhancement' only personal preference can decide - certainly it is not unacceptably tampered with, the 'echo' being minimal.

In a time of the year when the UK Crosby-on-record scene is suspended in limbo, this RCA release provides a welcome stopgap which the serious collector can hardly afford to miss.

(cont. over...

(Editor's note: Interrupting Bert before leaving this LEGENDARY PERFORMER album from RCA, when I spotted its appalling cover in the shops and its astonishing price, wearing my Secretarial hat I felt constrained to write to RCA Records asking them how they justified the price of £3.69p for it bearing in mind that except for a couple of items, it was a reissue of reissues from which fair mileage had already been obtained. I also pointed out that both Decca and United Artists were selling newly-recorded material cheaper - and did they know that a large part of this new album was actually currently available on OTHER RCA albums?

As I expected, they came back regretting my view of the attractions of the album (at the price!) but AH! what about the booklet!? I replied that the booklet did indeed go a long way to mitigating the bare and unattractive sleeve of the album but hardly justified the price. I described it as the non-bargain of this year, or any other year and hoped, should it fail, they would not draw the conclusion: "Crosby doesn't sell ....."

Apart from that little contretemps I was intrigued at Bert's mention of IT MUST BE TRUE as being written by Harry Barris as a substitute-signature tune for Bing. Its the first I've heard of this; Bing did mention that Harry developed this after its main theme was used in (I think) I SURRENDER, DEAR - and he also said that JUST AN ECHO was mooted as a deputy-theme. Also never required,...now Back to Bert's keeping track...)

BING CROSBY AND FRIENDS HRB BCP-1001; HRB Music Co. Inc., 4-LP set, Mono. US (V & R Advertising Inc., 919 Third Avenue, N.Y.10022 USA)

Side 1: Lady of Spain
Hello, Hello: Kay Thompson/Williams Bros.
Zipadee Doo Dah
Two to Tango: Rosemary Clooney
PS I Love You
Mona Lisa

Side 2 May the Good Lord Bless You and Keep You: Nat King Cole/Andrews Sisters
Great Day
I Got the Sun in the Morning
Why don't You Fall in Love With Me? : Ozzie & Harriet Nelson.
Hand Holdin' Music: Walter O'Keefe/ Rudy Vallee
Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes.

Side 3: Valencia
How are things in Glocca Mora
Young at Heart
The Old Lamplighter
Paper Moon
That Lucky Old Sun.

Side 4: Say it isn't So.
Say 'si-si'
Friendly Persuasion
I Hear Music
That old Gang of Mine
What'll I do?
I've Heard that Song Before
Thank You for a Lovely Evening

Side 8: Tell me Why: The Four Aces
Moonlight Bay: Gary Crosby
If this isn't Love
On Top of Old Smoky: Burl Ives
Lazy River/Paper Doll: Mills Bros.
Ol' Buttermilk Sky

Side 7 Its A Good Day
Cuanto le Gusta: Peggy Lee
For me & My Gal: Judy Garland
You Go to my Head
I Can Dream Can't I? Andrews Sisters
Till we meet again: Patti Page

Side 6: Lullaby of Broadway: Dick Powell
Surrey with the Fringe on Top: Helen O'Connell
Mississippi Mud: James Stewart/Fran Warren
Clancy Lowered the Boom: Dennis Day
Louise/Mimi: Maurice Chevalier

Side 5: Silver-Coated Moon: Ethel Merman
You Gotta Start off Each Day with a Song: Jimmy Durante
Why Oh Why Did I Ever leave Wyoming: Jerry Colonna
It Might as well be Spring: Geo. Burns
Bold Fishermen: Humphrey Bogart/ Laureen Bacall
Put 'em in a Box: Edgar Bergen

It will be fairly apparent that this very nice boxed collection has been compiled for the most part from Bing's regular radio series: PHILCO RADIO TIME, CHESTERFIELD and GENERAL ELECTRIC. The only anomaly is the inclusion of eight songs from the Longines commercial album, BING CROSBY'S TREASURY - THE SONGS I LOVE, which makes up Side 4, with the sides being auto-coupled.

Even so, this is not a 'pirated' publication for it has the blessing of the Crosby office and, indeed, might well have been released by one of the major record companies in this country...perhaps to better advantage. Not that one can really fault the sound fidelity. By comparison with similar packages its quite excellent. The sound does fall off on the commercial tracks, which are rather 'flat' - no body to them when compared with the stereophonic or 'living sound' as presented on the original albums. But, by and large, the sound, speed, and clarity are very good.

The programme is presented as a continuous one, commencing with the introductory orchestral version of WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT, and closing with Bing regretting that certain songs had to be omitted and hoping we'll "join him next week!" There is a considerable amount of dialogue, especially where the guests are comedians and it must be pointed out that Bing is heard on every track, duetting for the most part.

Skilful sound engineering could have linked the excerpts more professionally; the jump from one track or artiste to the next is occasionally bewildering, and in this respect the album could be classed as the work of a gifted amateur. This also goes for the packaging and graphics - both fall short of first-class presentation. The box is not hinged and is rather superficial. The graphics are "bitty", being compiled from numerous photographs of Bing from film, studio, and stage shots. The list of contents, however, is very detailed and includes all relevant information including track times. A 750-word sleeve note by Jim Costello extols Bing's vocal virtuosity and briefly traces his career, noting that it is almost superfluous to comment in this, his 50th year of recording (when the album was compiled) and that 'here are two hours of entertainment at its best. Which is fair comment.

Regrettable aspect of this exceptionally fine albums is the great difficulty in acquiring it. Members often write and ask where such-and-such an album can be obtained and usually we quote recognised importers. For this particular set it is recommended that members write directly to the firm at the address given. There's the possibility that the album may have been under-pressed and sufficient bombardment may produce the goods. They are certainly worth the effort.

"INDEPENDENCE 200" Fleetwood FMS 1007
12" Stereo US

Here we have an unbanded hour-and-a-half aural Bi-Centennial souvenir, celebrating of course America's 200th year of Independence as a nation. It must have its self-critical moments for Bing is heard singing the most famous protest song of all time - BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME? Beyond that, the non-Bing content is unknown.

If we are to maintain - earn? - our reputation for discographical accuracy we must correct the recording dates for Bing's marathon TOM SAWYER on Decca's Argo: they are September 3rd and 5th 1975, and NOT those days in July as we stated in the June issue of BING.

BING & SATCHMO Fontana 9291-002, Holland.

This album is a direct equivalent of Music for Pleasure MFP 1209, which is in itself one track missing (BYE, BYE BLUES) and sides transposed from the original MGM BING & SATCHMO (UK) and a dosen or so others of like ilk. Its a fine collection of songs, though. The only album devoted to Bing with the immortal Louis Armstrong, and dating from June 1060. Certainly no collection of Crosby should be minus this rather special album.

"HOLLYWOOD STORY" Festival Album 214 2-LP set: France.

Yet another collection of songs by cinematic personalities, seemingly all pirated from radio shows. PHILCO RADIO TIME and CHESTERFIELD shows give us three Bing tracks from 1948, 1950, and 1951 as listed:

I Don't Know Why : with Laureen Bacall
Maybe its Because : with Judy Garland
The Thing : with Fred Astaire

"FRANK SINATRA AND BING CROSBY" RIS J-3612 (R 10.612 on record label) Italy.

Granada
Among My Souvenirs
September Song
As Time Goes By
Someone Lovelier than You
Imagination
Meet me tonight in Dreamland
There's a long, long Trail
Wanted

Many will recognise this album as an equivalent of Italian Joker SM 3612 released a couple of years ago. Its a fine collection of duets and solos by Bing and Frank taken from General Electric shows for the 21st and 28th March 1954. Only the Bing songs are listed here. The sleeve is different from the indifferent Joker one inasmuch as there are nice inset pictures of the two vocal giants on the recent release. Well recommended.

"THE JAZZ GIANTS" MFP 4M126-23594/5 2-LP set. Belgium.

From vocal giants to jazz giants is no great step, at least where Bing is concerned. However, the 'giants' of the album's title refer to Brubeck, Ellington, Krupa, Teagarden, Herman, Armstrong and Miller. No first names needed there. Again the content is radio material and Bing is featured on two duets with Judy Garland and on one solo. No prizes for spotting the typographical error on one of the titles which are given here as printed on the sleeve: HELLO, MY BABY, duet, WALKIN' MY BABY BACK HOME, duet, LOVE IS ANTERRIFIC THING. What a pity some enterprising pirateer cannot find some elusive Bing Crosby/Glenn Miller coupling. It could be the year's best selling album!

"BING CROSBY MEETS LOUIS ARMSTRONG" Polydor 2343-043 Holland.

A variation on the title but the content remains the same. In that respect it is an equivalent of the Fontana LP mentioned earlier in these columns.

"BING CROSBY" Mark 56 Records 762 (Mark Records, Post Office Box One, Anaheim, California 92805, Phone (714) 772-4791

There are no details to hand of the content of this LP, but the catalogue illustrates a 'Forties age-group photograph of Bing on the sleeve; and as the notation is 'Original Radio Broadcasts' one can only conjecture that the featured material dates from that era; this in turn suggests KRAFT MUSIC HALL - perhaps PHILCO RADIO TIME. I hope to track down a copy and report on it in the next issue.

Also worth mentioning is the fact that the same company's catalogue also lists an album entitled PAUL WHITEMAN - A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GERSHWIN 761. It could well be that this is the 4th July, 1943 Chase & Sanborn Coffee Show which featured Bing and Dinah Shore together on the PORGY & BESS songs. considered by many to be one of the finest things Bing has ever done on radio. Certainly he is in excellent light operatic voice and I only wish he had recorded more in this vein. But, Mark 56 Cat. No. 761 may, of course, be something entirely different and help from any source is invited to check this one out.

"THE GREATEST HITS OF BING CROSBY" M.F. Productions MF-7007 [illegible] 2-LP US

(titles contin. over...

Record One: Side 1
McNamara's Band
Play a Simple Melody
Gone Fishin'
Just one More Chance
Blue Skies
Ac-cent-chuate the Positive.

Side 2
On the Atchison, Topeka & the Santa Fe
Done't Fence Me In
Faraway Places
Dear Hearts and Gentle People
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral
Road to Morocco

Record Two: Side 1
South America, Take it Away
Aren't You Glad You're You?
Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day
The Bells of St. Mary's
Put it There, Pal.

Side 2
Swinging on a Star
Sunday, Monday or Always
I Surrender, Dear
Moonlight Becomes You
I'll be Seeing You

Quite a nice double album crops up in the Jay Norris Corporation advertisements as an 'exclusive offer! Not available in stores!' This advertisement runs only in the American papers &c., but should be readily available from that Corporation, whose address continues 31 Hanse Avenue, Dept 5 - 51, Freeport, N.Y. 11521, USA.

The album has been produced on license from MCA so its all above board on might say. JUST ONE MORE CHANCE, however, is not as billed. By indicating the orchestraaas John Scott Trotter's it was presumably the intention to feature the 1939 version. Unfortunately this rarer version has been the victim of a not unusual error - and once again Decca has been 'robbed' by the substitution of their copyright version of 1931. Otherwise, all is as intended; and there are just enough variations on the 'best of Bing' theme to justify a second look. Quite rare these days, too, is the presentation of this kind of album mono-aurally, thus giving virtually the original sound.

A single sleeve houses the two records, the front cover having a photograph of Bing that was on the front of the magazine 'Field & Stream' not so long ago - full head and shoulders with 'fly' festooned fishin' hat, light check shirt and pipe at the jaunty Crosby angle. The rear sleeve photo is not such a good one; a very artificial pose in black and white. The titles are listed on both front and rear of the sleeve and the blue labels carry full credits and track times.

"THE BIX BEIDERBECKE STORY VOL. 111 - WHITEMAN DAYS - "IN A MIST" CBS 62375 Italy

Side Two: 'Tain't So, Honey, 'Tain't So.
That's My Weakness Now.
Because My Baby Don't Mean 'Maybe' Now.
Oh, Miss Hannah! (remaining tracks non-Bing)

Lucky we are that Bing and Bix were featured together so frequently. Apart from the influence on Bing by such a great jazz man as Beiderbecke there is also the considerable bonus of availability of these early recordings. This album has been released before - in France. In fact the sleeve notes of this Italian issue are still in the original Franch! There may be newer members, however, who have no knowledge of the original album, apart from the fact that we stfive to list all Bing-orientated records.

"MELODIYA" ROCT 5289-73 10" Russia (album title not known)

Side Two: Track 4
On the Alamo.

If anyone can translate Russian we can give you the title; this would be very useful for the inclusion in future publications. For sheer novelty this LP may be well sought after as there is a positive dearth of 'Iron Curtain' country Bing LPs. It is suggested that the Swing Shop is bombarded with requests for this one; once again, it may produce the goods. For the record, if the Editor

can contrive to cut a stencil, Bing's name is: B CA∏Y !

The sleeve is fairly novel with a hole in the rear through which may be seen the label - in the style of the old-time 78 covers, perhaps. The front of the stout card cover is decorated with Pussy Willow over a background of sea-green and white. Note, too, that it is a TEN-inch LP.

"TILL THE END OF TIME" Realm V2-8030/IV-8031 Stereo: 3-LPs US.
(Vista Marketing Inc., 1400 North Fruitridge Ave.,
Terra Haute, Indiana 47808, USA)

IV-8031 Side 1: Swinging on a Star (remainder of triple album non-Bing)

"THE MAGIC RADIO" Radiola MR-1066

'A full hour of rare radio memories' is the Radiola Company's boast though one cannot say that all of their albums are anything startling as regards fideltiy. This one features an excerpt from KRAFT MUSIC HALL of George Burns guesting with Bing.

"FEELS GOOD FEELS RIGHT" London PS 679 Stereo US.

No need to list the contents of this US release of the Decca equivalent. Suffice to say that happily this lovely album is now available in the land of Bing's birth - tho' proud we are in the UK that it originated here!

"BING CROSBY AT HIS RAREST OF ALL RARE PERFORMANCES" BIAC BRAD 10520/10521
Belgium: 2-LP set

Record One; Side 1:
Nobody 10.3.47
I Do, Do, Do Like You 6.6.47
My Heart is a Hobo 6.6.47
I Want to Thank You Folks 6.6.47
Why Remind Me? 8.2.50
The Horse Told Me 3.5.50
Am I in Love? 21.5.52

Side 2:
Its Just for Today 17.5.50
I Got the Blues, Hooly, Hooly 17.5.50
Wish on the Moon 17.5.50
Big Movie Show in the Sky 17.5.50
Baby, Won't You Say you Love Me? 17.5.50
Be My Life's Companion 4.6.52

Record Two: Side 3:
Its Only a Paper Moon (no date)
Poinciana 1944
I Got a Lot in Common with You 1944
Iowa 1944
Shoo, Shoo Babt 1944

Side 4:
I'll Remember April 20.7.44
I'll Get By (no date)
Amor, Amor (no date)
San Fernando Valley (no date)
My Thanks 1944

This is the first of a couple of elusive 2-LP sets on the Belgian BIAC label. The dates are as shewn on the sleeve, which is illustrated on the rear with a photograph of Bing performing in front of a stfeet vendor's stall - like the scene from the TV show BING IN LONDON where he was 'arrested' by Ron Moody as a policeman, eventually singing MY FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS to judge Miles Malleson.

All the tracks come from radio, of course, and the fidelity is nothing to write home about. Quite a few of these songs have already appeared on 'pirate' LPs. But its worth pursuing - even as a sleuthing activity!

"FRANK SINATRA/BING CROSBY AT HIS RAREST OF ALL RARE PERFORMANCES" BIAC BRAD 10514/10515 2-LP Belgium.

10515 Side 1:
Bless 'em All 1944
September Song 1944
The Day after Forever 1944
Joe, Joe 6.2.44
Exactly Like You 6.2.44
Night and Day 6.2.44

Side 2:
Saturday Date 1948
Civilisation 1948
Golden Earrings 1948
But Beautiful 1947
At Last 21.5.52

(cont....

The two LPs are separate entities - Bing and Frank - with both of them appearing on the front of the sleeve, while the inner and outer sleeves are liberally sprinkled with pictures of them both. Again we have the familiar formula of Bing songs from radio shows. Dates are as shewn and can no doubt be fairly easily tracked down to particular broadcasts by means of tapes that have been around for many years. Fidelity rates rather similar to the previous BIAC volume.

Altogether, that's a lot of records - which should keep you happy if insolvent until the next issue. Just to remind you, note the overseas labels and bear in mind these are not, for the most part, freely available here at home. Thanks to all sources of information - especially Colin Pugh.

MUSIC FOR PLEASURE have brought out a double LP, featuring tracks from their repertoire. Among these is CHICAGO by Bing - but he is in less than uplifting company! Fair proportion of pop....hardly likely to be attractive in view of the fact that the whole Bing album from which CHICAGO comes was issued fairly recently ("WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT")

As an addendum to KEEPING TRACK perhaps we can tack on details of the SPOKANE albums, promoted by LARRY KINER under a dispensation from Bing himself:

SPOKANE 1: Woodbury, Kraft and Cremo selections.
SPOKANE 2; Kraft Music Hall, March 12 1942 (Mary Martin, Victor Borge, Pat O'Brien, Jerry Lester &c.)
SPOKANE 3: Kraft Music Hall, April 30, 1943 (as for 2 but with Ronald Reagan, Sabu, Spike Jones &c.)
SPOKANE 4: Kraft Music Hall, April 16, 1942 (as for 3 but with Larry Adler)
SPOKANE 5: DER BINGLE - those great World War II songs.
SPOKANE 6: HAPPY HOLIDAY: Kraft Music Hall of December 21, 1944 and largely 17 Christmas songs
SPOKANE 7: "ON THE AIR" Kraft Music Hall of May 27, 1937 (Jimmy Dorsey & his Orches., Ken Carpenter, Bob Burns, Zasu Pitts
SPOKANE 8: "SING YOU SINNERS" - radio feature of the film with Bing and Ralph Bellamy, Jan. 15, 1940.
SPOKANE 9: BIRTH OF THE BLUES - Bing, Dinah Shore, Phil Harris, Red Nichols and his cornet - radio presentation of the Crosby film: Jan 1950.

These albums are certainly obtainable from LARRY KINER, PO Box 724, Redmond, Washington 98052, USA. Here again, much of the material has been available on tape to most collectors but its beneficial to have it on LP, perhaps. Fidelity improves, it seems, as the date advances! But in all cases, it is pretty good. The albums cost 5.5- dollars each (about £2.50 or slightly under) plus postage. The albums are attractively sleeved, with some excellent pictures and are "factory-sealed" in polythene.

We've had reports of these albums being bought in Liverpool, Manchester, and London so it seems they are being imported in some quarters. Members have to decide what is the best policy - obtaining them from America means a patient wait so obviously if you can get them here you save the wait - and postage. But Larry is a certain supplier. This issue, as indicated above, has Bing's special approval. You could write air-mail for Larry's lists which include a lot of TOTEM and AIRCHECK albums featuring dozens of vintage stars/bands. Include one dollar (about 40p) for return of lists.

And, reaching the end of KEEPING TRACK for this issue, we couldn't have a better cue for what follows on the next page!

REVISED REVIEW:

THE LP-OGRAPHY IS READY !!!

------not strictly true as we write but it will be very shortly after you receive this issue of BING.... production is proceeding apace....

Yes, the long-awaited new edition of the LPography is virtually ready. As one who had nothing at all to do with the exacting compilation of this project, your Editor is in a position to review it - mine was only the mind-boggling task of typing every word and number! At times I wondered what would give out first - my eyes, my wrists, my typewriter or the duplicator! Happily, we seem to have survived a tremendous onslaught.

This revision includes previously not-listed records - obscure, private, semi-pirate and so on. The diligent and relentless researchers comprise an international team: John Bassett who might be described as "managing editor", and Colin Pugh (Bristol), Bert Bishop of Britain, Ron Daniels of Australia, and Ken Gray of America. And their work has to be seen to be believed!

This must be the browser - bedside or anywhere else - of all time and worthy to stand alongside THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY and THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD (film-book) albeit by a different team; this is to the good for it demonstrates that so many people are prepared to spend endless time in researching the output of Mr. Crosby. Bing writes the foreword and says how pleased he will be to have this publication for several reasons. As for browsing, well, the possibilities are endless. As a sample: which song of Bing's has made most appearances on LP? A bit of research will tell you with the help of this book. At a rough guess, having done no research, I would put forward TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RAL, would you believe?

One or two points: I once had a member take me to task apropos the first issue of the LPography because on albums where several artists are involved, we list the Bing content and add "remainder non-Bing". He felt this might be discourteous. Not at all; certainly not intended. It is merely that a Crosby discography deals with Crosby material and the activities of other artists are not the object. And if they WERE included, they would confuse and cloud the project enormously.

Secondly, so prodigiously complete is this new listing that albums are included which are extremely, if not impossibly, difficult to obtain. Your Editor, for example, is listed as the nominal "producer" of some ICC albums that wereissued a dozen years or so ago; similarly an album BOUNCING WITH BING - a private issue - is unobtainable. But, the LPography aims at completeness; it consists of several parts, e.g. Country abbreviations, listing of prefix letters, alphabetical listing of labels, album titles and so on. Parts of it may be of interest only to the dedicated discographer who immerses himself in numbers. But the song-listing of the albums cannot fail to be of absorbing interest to everyone - to check what they have, what they would like, and what they MUST have!

One of the disadvantages of producing a discography of Bing, however, is the wholly delightful fact that Bing continues to record and, thus, quickly makes all publications out of date! This present one nominally covers the period 1950-1975 but more recent issues do get listed as a supplement. The new listing is DOUBLE the size of the original one at 162 pages! The cost has been enormous and put the ICC in the "red" to the extent of between £200-£300 which, no doubt, will quickly be recovered. IT COSTS £2.50, which includes postage, estimated to be 23½p if the threatened postage increases do not materialise. This price is costed to cover materials and postage; the labour expended in researching, compiling, and printing is beyond computing. It is priceless.

The book has an intriguing cover consisting of a montage of nine of Bing's albums, photographed by Bert Bishop.

Naturally, only a limited number has been printed but it is hoped there will be sufficient to cover the membership. European members pay sterling equivalent of £2.50p; as do Australian, and New Zealand members. American and Canadian six dollars.

> If the pattern of previous ICC projects is followed with this LPography, it will soon be "sold out" and become a collectors' item.

Send remittance to Reg Bristo; the LPography will be posted as soon as possible - but allow a couple of weeks before complaining of non-receipt!!

BULLETIN FROM THE NORTH-EAST — featuring FRANK MURPHY

FRANK, of 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 7NE continues with his resurgence - he was original Secretary of the ICC - and announces that the next Northern Bing meeting, with films, tapes and records, will be at the SPRINGFIELD HOTEL, Durham Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, Co. Durham on Sunday SEPTEMBER 25th from 7.30 to 10.30pm Tickets (from Frank) are £1.75p to include buffet.

Frank also invites you to join the BING CROSBY PHOTO CLUB - quarterly magazine with photo news and special offers plus big discounts to members. Send SAE for introductory leaflet.

Frank Murphy can also accept enrolments in THE AMERICAN CLUB CROSBY. He invites you to send £4.65p for the annual subscription which brings you two photo-packed issuues of BINGANG plus interim newsletters. The high figure (8 dollars forsooth) is, Frank explains, due to the low pound exchange rate against the dollar..... Which should, at least, make you cherish BING and the ICC all the more....

All that we ask is that members renew promptly...or send even a card to say no longer interested - difficult as that is to imagine! It is the intention to maintain the annual subscription, bringing the unique BING four times a year, at £1.80p despite economic conditions which seem determined to squash societies like ours out of existence.

And in this connection, a little word nobody need feel embarrassed about....we are well aware that some of our members, naturally, are on pension. We won't use euphemisms like "Senior Citizens" and suchlike <u>but</u> if anyone is in that position and finding things difficult AND they desperately want the LPography, it will be sent at the special price of £1. There is no form to fill in, no means test - just the word of a Crosby admirer to another. It will be <u>completely confidential.</u>

But at the same time, we rely on that same integrity of Bing admirers not to misuse what is a genuine, and substantial, offer, to those who may be up against it in these inflationary times.

KEN BARNES in a letter to an old friend, NORMAN JONES of Port Talbot here in Welsh Wales, dated May 4, 1977 "....as for Bing, we managed to get our fifth album with him in the can just a few weeks before Christmas. We did the orchestra in London in August. Bing was supposed to come to the sessions, but he phoned me the day before to say that he had to go to Spain to discuss a golfing project and that he would mmet me "say, in about six weeks from now in Los Angeles. You can bring the tapes over and I'll put my voice on then".

So that's what we did. I travelled over to L.A. in October and Bing did the album in three 3-hour sessions. He was in excellent voice ("What I did For Love" being just one example), and the album is due for release in September of this year.....

Oh, by the way, one thing I forgot to mention (perhaps because I'm almost ashamed) is that I also produced the Slim Whitman album which was recently at No. 1 in the LP charts. And I was just awarded my first Gold Disc. Frankie Laine will almost certainly provide me with my second Gold by Christmas... And maybe Bing will give me my third - but it seems to take a little longer with Crosby. The one sure way of getting a GOLD with Bing would be to have him re-record all his million-sellers in stereo with new arrangements . But unfortunately, due to longstanding contractual arrangement it is unlikely that this will ever take place. The nearest we got to it was the Palladium album which did fairly good sales, despite a terrible TV ad from K-Tel...."

Editor: Our congratulations to Ken on his Gold....coupled with the fervent hope that Bing is the means by which he will get another. Ken has recently produced a couple of Peggy Lee albums and remains extremely busy in the record-production field. Slim Whitman has provided some fine vocal entertainment in the past - but I must confess that when I heard him recently he seemed to have deteriorated alarmingly. Purely a personal view. Thanks to Norman Jones for showing us the letter.....

"....I think Bing saved my sanity and possibly my Mother's, because when I was young, although I was quite a lively youngster I spent most of my youth in bed unable to do very much except listen to the radio and I used to listen to any programme which I thought might include Bing.

I HASTEN TO ADD THAT I AM NOW A VERY SPRIGHTLY GRANDMA WHO NEVER SPENDS A DAY IN BED....

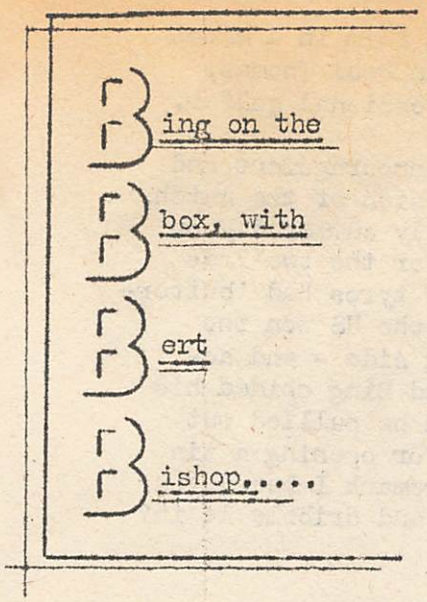
Mrs. Mary Joinson
(Peterborough)

....the kind of letter we love to have amidst all the earnest discographical matter that is, perforce, part of our lot! Well done, Mary...and - STAY SPRIGHTLY - or is it SPRITELY?

"First, foremost and utterly delightful is Bing Crosby's FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT" (Decca SKL 5261). Its brand new, recorded (at the workmanlike rate of three or four tracks a day) last year on the Ol' Groaner's trips to London. And it is a real triumph of art over age. Crosby's flexible decorative style, full of grace notes and off-beat syncopated phrasing, enables him to duck the odd high note with such style that it becomes redundant to ask whether he could have hit it if he tried. He zips through the quicker numbers like "There's nothing that I haven't sung about" and the title track with such staunchy panache that you can almost hear the grin in his voice. I suppose that it must be technique that does it, but it comes across as pure personality. DECCA SHOULD GET THEIR SHOULDERS BEHIND THIS - THERE'S NO VERY GOOD REASON WHY IT SHOULDN'T SELL A MILLION."

Ray Forster sent us this with the comment: From a "with-it" up to date HI-FI magazine aimed at those fanatics of the younger generation who have more money than sense, I would say that this is praise indeed!

Well, ARE Decca putting their shoulders to it?



Due to unavoidable circumstances, much of this quarter's review concerns events that would normally have been reported three months ago - in the June issue, of course. But in view of the fact that there has been very little sight or sound of Bing on the British airwaves recently - apart from records, of course - this "dated" reportage maintains the continuity of this column.

The major happening on television during those weeks that led into our cold British Spring of 1977 was the screening of INTERNATIONAL PRO-CELEBRITY GOLF - THE BING CROSBY CUP; a ten-match series keenly contested between Great Britain and the USA, played and telerecorded last summer and screened on ten consecutive weeks beginning Wednesday 12th January, BBC-2 presented the series with transmission between 8.10 and 9pm.

Throughout the series, all played off at the King's Course, Gleneagles Hotel, Johnny Miller for the USA, and Tony Jacklin for Great Britain were the professional players. Bing captained the American team, playing in the first match only; and Scottish film actor Sean Connery (shades of James Bond and Auric Goldfinger!) filled that position for Great Britain. But before the series got under way Bing had an introductory speech for viewers:

> "HELLO! - and welcome to the Gleneagles Hotel here in bonnie Scotland for the Bing Crosby Cup. I've brought with me some outstanding golfers and show business personalities from the United States, and we're going to be playing against some of the opposite numbers in Great Britain....stage, screen, film and television stars who are also good players. They're going to be captained by Sean Connery - old '007' himself - and I might tell you he's just as indomitable on the links as he is on the screen...
>
> "This is superb golfing country, as you all know - Scotland - practically the cradle of the game, and you're going to see some fine golf - some interesting golf - in a marvellously attractive environment..... now here to tell you the format of how this tournament works - this event - are out commentators Peter Allis and Henry Longhurst..."

After a few more words from both captains, the first game began. It was not such a brilliant day for weather, considering the incredible summer of 1976, but all four players tee'd off very well. The 'one and only' driving straight down the middle for a fine opening shot.

The celebrities were all allowed a stroke (i.e. not required to play the first long drive off) on a hole or two, but otherwise there was nothing to choose in this first match between amateur and professional; Bing, in fact, putting extraordinarily well for the most part. He did miss a couple - which proved a little expensive - and in the final analysis Great Britain won the match by four points. But to watch Bing swinging smoothly and effortlessly, as his years require, and with that built-in Crosby nonchalance which touches everything he does, and yet still getting the line and distance, must be an object lesson to all aspiring players - youngsters in particular. A comment which is subjectively stated and emphasised beyond any sychophancy that follows in the wake of Mr. C.

Despite his oft-stated remarks about his son Nathaniel's ability on the golf course, 'number six son' wasn't anywhere near in the same class as his old dad

when his turn came to represent the celebrity half of the USA team in a match screened on 9th February. He had an equally young opponent in Paul Thomas, playing as the British celebrity, though son of a famous professional golfer.

Bing was there to watch them play and give a word or two of encouragement and advice, though he was not seen on the screen until the conclusion of the match. The bunkers seemed to have a magnetic attraction on that lovely summer day on which the game was played but it was obviously a lot of fun for the two lads and their professional partners though I don't doubt that the tyros had 'butter-flies' in the stomach as an extrahandicap. On this occasion the US won the match by two points, so at least Nathaniel was on the winning side - and ac-quitting himself quite well all things considered. At the end Bing chided his son over a missed putt: "You know, that made me tremble when he pullled out the '1 iron' on the 17th tee...now that club should be used for opening a tin of sardines! Listen! One thing, Nathaniel - what was that remark I heard you say when you said I generally use a '4 iron' for a 115 yards and dribble it in? You wanna go home on a Greek trader?"

By that half-way match the USA were leading by four to one and though not a rout it was clearly the pattern for the rest of the series which ended at eight to two, the final celebrities being once again Sean Connery, with the USA rep-resented by Burt Lancaster. Bing was there, of course, and he accepted the Bing Crosby Cup from Sean Connery with these words:

> "I'm sure it was a great pleasure for all of us to play with the British side in this marvellous background and environment, which I'm sure has been lovingly photographed by the BBC cameramen - and I'll relish taking this back on the British Concorde! It might tarnish on a long trip (laughter)...I'll get it back as quickly as I can, and we'll save it for you Sean, and you come again with your legions and we'll try and defend it."

Whilst its always nice to win, its not the most important aspect and I'm sure this very cordial series proved most enjoyable - not only for lovers of the game but also for followers of the versatile Mr. C. He makes it abundantly clear that his regular British sojourns are immensely enjoyed and, for our part, we are very happy to have him here participating in these pleasurable pastimes. Let us hope his dreadful accident has not brought an end to his activities on the fairways and greens he loves so much.

Just prior to the commencement of that golfing series Bing turned up in THE BOB HOPE WORLD OF COMEDY on BBC-2 on Monday 10th January 1977. Bob was cele-brating 26 years of his television shows and once again used the format of clips from over the years. It couldn't have been so long ago that Bing guested on Bob's show, with Juliet Prowse, to do a satirical sketch based on the BONANZA TV Western series. Bing was seen playing 'Ben Cartwheel', once again turning the tables on Bob (who played all three sons of the series) to 'get the girl' by shooting down his hillebilly offspring. In all of those 26 years of Bob's TV career there are much better Bob-Bing scenes than this, but it was something different in more than a week of a wealth of Crosbyana.

The chance to see - or see again - ICHABOD - THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW occurred on Friday 21st January 1977 when BBC-1 presented a second showing of this enlarged version of the original in their WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY series. As most will know, this animated cartoon formed half of the 1949 full-length feature film THE ADVENTURES OF ICHABOD AND MR. TOAD.

Disney Productions have added a biographical prologue concerning the author, Washington Irving, in order to make it a separate entity as a story. This lengthy introduction also takes the form of animated cartoon, though Bing is not concerned with it in any way. He takes over as narrator, however, when the story proper begins, imbuing it with just the right amount of drama and light-hearted theatricality - as the storyline demands. Apart from the title

tune Bing carries off the fair "Katrina", to say nothing of THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN, with equal accomplishment. Altogether a delightful if sometimes spooky item of entertainment, nicely put across by Bing in yet another variation on his many talents and, as always, technically brilliant and imaginative in the visual art for which the Walt Disney studios were rightly renowned.

A new television series tracing THE STORY OF POPULAR MUSIC began on ITV on the 12th February 1977 with kaleidoscope of what was to follow over the ensuing sixteen weeks. As rightly judged by what was seen on that first evening's presentation of ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE it is unlikely that many UK members will have steeled themselves to sit through a lot of 'pop' rubbish just to hear a few historical gems - AND THOSE, WOULD YOU BELIEVE, TALKED OVER BY A NARRATOR! Incredible!

Bing was heard - just about - relating that he had never been mobbed by 'fans' hysterical or otherwise. The fact that he has had some remarkable ovations from less frenetic and more discerning audiences seems to have been overlooked by both Bing and the producer of this extremely disappointing series which, from where I sit, failed miserably and lamentably in its prime objective, and whose motivation was clearly commercial success with bran-washed absentees from Radio One.

Sorry to end on a sour note - let's just hope that the September issue of BING can record something more entertaining for us to relish.

Editor: Bert is so right about that pathetic STORY OF POPULAR MUSIC; one got the impression that they couldn't get to rock 'n roll quickly enough! One can well imagine the brains behind such a project. Bert is right again - who COULD have sat thro' it? The small parts I DID see were full of inaccuracies - and wrongly-drawn conclusions.

Mind you, I think Bing makes some terse enquiries as to what a programme is about when he is asked to do an interview - and then proceeds to say, often tongue-in-cheek, what he thinks the producer EXPECTS him to say! While I would agree that Bing's receptions have never been moronically insane (as afforded to some of today's inane mediocrities) - but then again, how many will get a reception such as Bing got at the Palladium fifty years after he started? And perhaps he sometimes forgets what happened in War-time Britain when he had to come to a window and sing PENNIES FROM HEAVEN - with the chance of a flying-bomb interrupting the proceedings - before an enormous crowd would disperse; or the tens of thousands who are prepared to follow him around any golf-course? No, Bing tells these long-haired producers what he thinks they WANT to hear!.

But, once more adding to Bert's ON THE BOX theme, I should imagine most members watched that absorbing series on the ARK ROYAL? Truly great television - as, more recently, were the nightly visits to see badgers at work and play - and could not fail to have been impressed with the music that introduced each instalment - SAILING. A fine melody and a beautiful orchestration - yet it had that appalling, strangulated vocalist ruining it! I remarked on such lines - and a young person present said: "But that's Rod Stewart (I think?) - and he's a SUPERSTAR!" Ye Gods... I thought that absurd singing came close to bringing ridicule on what was really a splendid, graphic and often dramatic series.

But, the song did impress me - and I found myself thinking what a grand job Bing would make of it - a good melody, and one of those nostalgic lyrics which are so beautifully interpreted by Bing. What a fine number for a future album, I feel.

Then it would indeed have the superstar treatment!

A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR EDITOR: EPISODE 2:

It wasn't my idea - and still isn't - to make a series out of my new experiences; but this one has a Crosby-flavour in a roundabout way. You will recall my "new Experience" in the last issue concerned my invitation to address a Professional Ladies Guild on the subject of the incomparable Bing Crosby, and in parenthesis, I might add that the name of this ladies' society gave me the opportunity for an opening joke (?) which got me off to a good start. It seemed to be quite an evening and local press reports seem to confirm that. Sufficient to say I now have another half-dozen such invitations to speak on the Maestro which I shall be happy to accept - when I have finished the LPography!

My second "new experience" was considerably less pleasant; in fact, though it is rather commonplace, it came as a traumatic shock. That's how it often is - when it happens to YOU! In short, I had my car pinched....or, taken without my consent, as the police would have it.

The wife and I had gone to Newport (five miles distant) to do some shopping on a Saturday afternoon as usual; I parked in the usual place and then as I wanted a quick run round the record shops while the wife wanted to go to the more feminine shops (not that record shops are totally masculine!), we arranged to be back at the car in an hour, which was 3o'clock. I duly returned - to find my wife standing where our car HAD been and realised with a split-second glance that the car was gone. As I say,I'm certain many of our members have experienced this but it was a sickening moment. My wife was startled for she thought I'd returned to the car to go somewhere else and then pick her up. While I went to ring the police she went for a much-needed cup of tea.

"Not to worry, sir," said the young policeman (about 19 I would guess) "we'll get it back for you....they're taking Corinas all the time...." Then we were up against harsh reality, for the first thing was to trudge heavily laden to the bus station - to get home! That I'd just spent £85 having it adjusted was just one of the thoughts whirling around in my mind.

Happily I was able to borrow my daughter's car - gladly loaned - for work and other essential journeys. But the full import doesn't dawn on you for about 24 hours... then it feels like an invasion of your privacy. Someone sitting in your car, driving around...like someone ransacking your sitting-room while you're out. The police told me if it wasn't returned in 24 hours would I go to the station and make a fuller statement? So, Monday morning I'm off to Newport, skipping work for a couple of hours - and was disconsolate when the police appeared utterly unconcerned! But they obviously were NOT - for on the Wednesday, four-and-a-half days after my car was taken they rang me at work to say it had been discovered in Cardiff - 30 miles away! My initial relief was speedily displaced by the worry: what condition is it in? One hears stories of cars being stripped - if not totally wrecked. And even tho' one is comprehensively insured it can take months to settle things - and what would I do meanwhile?

A friend motored me down to Cardiff - and there was the car, looking untouched! Trying to start it, however, revealed that the battery was gone...and the satchel that held my documents...the aerial had been ripped off, the petrol cap taken, but, surprisingly, my modest stereo cassette player and its speakers were untouched! But the worst was to come: I knew there had been a hold-all in the boot, containing about 120 BING's, ready for postage to overseas members....fearing the worst I opened the boot....the hold-all (leather) had gone...but all the magazines were strewn on the floor of the boot! Just one had been ripped open - curiosity, no doubt. So, overseas members will now know how lucky they were to get the March issue for if they had been taken I just could not have replaced them! So, for small mercy's, let us be thankful! Starting with a new battery at £18.00, it cost me a bit but, in the main, I was lucky I suppose - lucky to get it back after

being unlucky enough to have it taken in the first place. And it was drivable, once I'd got another battery. But, it is an upsetting and unnerving experience I am not anxious to repeat.

I realised my car was not new enough to be pinched one day in Newport (Wales) and sold, resprayed, next day in Edinburgh! But that merely meant it was a joy-rider who had taken it, liable to strip it if not smash it up....such are the thoughts that crowd in on one in such a situation.

And its not much consolation to realise that determined car-takers can overcome most precautions one takes....

As I say, not an experience I want to repeat; and I shall make sure that precious BING'S are not left in the boot but posted at the very first Post office!

Phil Gelormine, Jnr., (New Jersey, USA) sent us some photo-stats: one a photograph of Bing leaving the Pasadena hospital on a stretcher - but still wearing his golf-hat! Unfortunately, being a photo-stat it will not stand reproduction here.

Another cutting read: EXITS SINGING....Bing Crosby, with one arm on the shoulder of his wife, Kathy, and leaning on a cane, leaves Peninsula Hospital, Millbrae, Calif. after entertaining the staff with a chorus of OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING. Crosby was hospitalized for prolonged treatment of a back injury incurred while filming a special TV show marking his 50th year in show business.

Phil Gelormine also accompanied these cuttings with:

I doubt that there are many readers of BING who could find just as much enjoyment in the music of Led Zeppelin as they can in Mr. Crosby's wax. I, for one, can, in fact Bing had wet his feet in the world of rock with two outstanding recordings. My favorite is a little ditty he recorded back in '68 or '69 entitled WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE WORLD?, arranged and conducted by Ernie Freeman. He is the same man who added a heavy after beat to the recordings of Sinatra (STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT) and Dean Martin (EVERYBODY LOVES SOMEBODY). I love the way Bing sings this 'message song' and the big beat doesn't get in his way at all. To me, a Crosby Classic. And even my friends have to admit that the Old Groaner acquits himself admirably on the Beatles' HEY JUDE. I tell you that Bing can sing anything - but I guess you know that!

My parents and I watched Bing's 50th show and, on one hand, we enjoyed the entertainment but on the other, it was sad to know in advance the dreadful finale. But, Bing must be blessed by God and how delighted I am that he is now on the road to recovery - and I mean no movie pun!

Editor: A nice piece from our new-found friend, young Philip - and perhaps his words will convince those who STILL refuse to believe there is a musical (I use the word loosely!) aggregation by the name of Led Zeppelin...

I'm sure Phil is so right, too, when he says - concerning watching the show on TV - that it was marred by knowing what happened to Bing right at the end. Its going to spoil it for us when it comes....

Philip also illustrates how easily possible it is for widely-differing views to be held among members....

A LITTLE BIRD who HAS to remain anonymous tells us that when Bing was in the Decca studios last summer for FEELS GOOD - FEELS RIGHT (what an album!) he was chatting to a certain executive there about recording with a small group...in fact, he actually burst into song in rhythmic, small-group style with a couple of Fats Waller numbers with just piano accompaniment. Sadly for posterity - the recording gear had been switched off! But, it remains an exciting idea. One of my long-cherished hopes has been for a Bing album with an outfit such as the Firehouse Seven! They didn't appear on record with Bing but did take part in some of his broadcasts - notably with my favourite number PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT ME WHEN I'M GONE...

And we would certainly want to hear more of Bing with ALAN COHEN who did such a splendid job on FEELS GOOD - FEELS RIGHT! - "what a great group" as Bing remarked in the opening title-number....and the more I hear that beautiful coda to WHEN I LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND the more I like it. Really grand.

On the next page, and the one that follows it, are reproduced some items that appeared in the newspapers concerning Bing's accident - and other things.

Remarkably, the mishap produced "leader" articles: and the one which appeared in THE WESTERN MORNING NEWS is particularly gratifying. Not because it is appreciative and laudatory of Mr. C. - but because the writer obviously knew what he was talking about, as you can see.

The national THE SUN also saw fit to give a "leader" GET WELL SOON, BING!

We feel safe in saying that the article headed BING IS BACK IN BUSINESS by NEIL O'BRIEN hasn't been seen by any member before. The reason? It is by one of our farthest-flung members, who lives in Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND and has come a long way to appear in our columns. Neil kept the flag-flying well...he tells us that Bing gets very fair airing on the New Zealand non-commercial networks. Which is nice to know. If Bing had got to Australia, as we are sure he certainly meant to, he would almost certainly have taken in New Zealand as well....let's hope for all our "mates" Down Under that Bing does eventually make his long-contemplated visit to Australia.

Seems it was true that Bing was first offered the Columbo role - the highly amusing and down-at-heel detective! It is now reported that Falk is to get £1,400,000 for FOUR episodes, and thus becomes the world's highest-paid TV actor.....

"Falk also revealed that he was originally second choice for the role of the scruffy sleuth. First-choice was multi-millionaire Bing Crosby, who turned it down. He said it would interfere with his golf....."

MR. ARTHUR BLOOD of Derby has shewn positive evidence of his appreciation of Bing by commissioning - and having executed - a fine portrait of Mr. C. in oils. He was good enough to send us a copy, rather, a photograph by which Arthur is proudly standing. Its a fine effort. And Arthur writes: I sent Bing a gift before Christmas - a set of cigarette cards mounted. They were Players' KINGS & QUEENS of England (issued in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. I received a very nice letter in return:

Dear Arthur: Thank you so much for sending me the beautiful tray with the

(cont. page 35.....

Saturday, March 5, 1977.

The Western Morning News
(Founded 1860)
Incorporating
Devon & Exeter Daily Gazette 1772. Western Daily Mercury 1861
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1977.
Leicester Harmsworth House, Plymouth. Telephone Plymouth 266620

Get well soon, Bing

THE OLD TROUPER is a tough breed and we are tempted to add that they don't make 'em like that any more. So all the more reason to hope that Bing Crosby, the best-known entertainer in the whole wide world, will suffer no permanent damage from his fall off a stage in California.

Very few popular singers stay at the top for more than a few years. Today the talent is minimal and the stamina non-existent. But Bing has been a world star for 50 years, and his recordings will no doubt go on charming people for generations.

Bing, of course, comes from a different age and a different world, compared with the hip-twisting howlers of today. When the young Crosby was setting out in the thirties to capture fame, a star had to have a certain glamour and magic.

Today is the day of the "anti-hero" the rebel, the misfit, the moaner. Bing certainly was irreverently nicknamed "the old groaner" for his style. But he could sing on the note and he projected a pleasant personality.

When his story comes to be written it will be an amazing tale of great talent which earned a prodigious fortune. But we hope it is a long time before Bing calls it a day.

Bing is back in business

NEIL O'BRIEN

CROSBY FANS, they still do exist, will be pleased to know that the "Old Groaner" is back in the recording business with a vengeance. Over the past five years Bing's commercial output has been limited to a couple of LPs, neither of which have been released in this country. Both sessions were for onetime bandleader-arranger Sonny Burke's Daybreak label, an independent with RCA outlets.

The latest of these sessions was a collaboration with the Count Basie band entitled appropriately *Bing 'n' Basie* (Daybreak Dr2014) recorded on March 14, 15 and 16 1972. The album contains a wide variety of material as the following titles will indicate: "Gentle on my mind"; "Everything is beautiful"; "Gonna Build a mountain"; "Sunrise Sunset"; Snowbird"; "Little green apples", etc.

In his recent publication, *Sinatra and the Great Song Stylists*, editor Ken Barnes had this to say about the album: "A superb, albeit surprising, album from Crosby. Superb, because he is in fine voice and because both the songs and the excellent Count Basie accompaniments suit him to a tee. Surprising, because it was recorded just a few weeks before his seventieth birthday. It proves that when he chooses to be conscientious about his singing, he can still show his rivals a thing or two about song interpretation . . ."

If the years 1970-74 provided very little in the way of new Crosby material then 1975 promises to provide a veritable deluge of new recordings.

First, in January of this year Bing recorded a set of southern songs accompanied by a nine-piece unit led by Paul Smith whom jazz buffs will remember from his "liquid sounds" days. Among the numbers taped were "On the Alamo", "Stars fell on Alabama", "Way down yonder in New Orleans", "Georgia on my mind" and "When it's sleepy time down south". The LP release is imminent.

Perhaps the biggest bonus for Crosby fans will be the release of two albums recorded by Bing in London during the latter part of February. In all, six sessions at the Chappell Studios produced 26 titles. The first album was released late in August on the United Artists label and is entitled *That's What Life is all About*. The selections consist of old and new material and include "The good old times", "Some Sunny Day", "Have a nice day", "Breezing along in the breeze", "Razzel Dazzel" and the title tune which has been released as a single and at the time of writing is getting plenty of air time.

The second album will consist solely of show tunes chosen by Bing himself and these include "I got rhythm", "Hello Dolly", "How are things in Glocca Mora" etc.

On both albums the backing varies from a 19-piece conventional big swing band set-up to a 41-piece orchestra incorporating a 20-piece string section. Advance information indicates that from a purely technical point of view Bing has never been recorded to better advantage. And this, coupled with the fact his voice is stronger than it has been for some time, promises to provide a couple of vintage albums.

Finally, late in July producer Ken Barnes, who was responsible for the two aforementioned albums, brought off something of a coup by persuading Bing and Fred Astaire to cut several tracks for an album entitled, yes you guessed it, *A couple of Song and Dance men.* ●

Bing is hurt in stage plunge

CROONER Bing Crosby was in hospital last night after a 20ft fall off stage.

The 72-year-old singer plunged onto the heads of two startled violinists in the orchestra pit.

He lay dazed and bleeding from a head wound as his wife Kathryn and his old friend Bob Hope ran to help him.

Clutched

But Bing was not badly hurt. He managed to smile weakly and joke: 'Don't worry, this is all part of the act. We'll give it another try tomorrow night.'

Bing's fall from grace came at the end of a show in Pasadena, California, to mark his 50 years in showbusiness.

As he acknowledged the applause of the audience, Bing turned and slipped.

He clutched at a flimsy curtain, which tore and fell with him.

Lucky

Businessman Nick Condos, another old friend, rushed forward in a bid to break the fall.

Doctors ordered Bing to spend the night in hospital for observation. His wife slept in the same room.

A hospital spokesman said: "Mr Crosby is in good condition. He appears to have been very lucky. All he has suffered are some bruises and a cut to his head."

Crosby has ruptured disc

SINGER Bing Crosby suffered a ruptured disc in the lower part of his back after falling 20 feet from a concert stage three weeks ago.

A hospital spokesman said surgery was not immediately planned and the 72-year-old crooner would be leaving today for a hospital near his home in San Francisco.

Crosby fell from the stage at the Ambassador College auditorium as he was taking an ovation. He was kept in Pasadena hospital after complaining of recurring pain in his legs when he stood up or tried to walk.

Bing moved

SINGER Bing Crosby, 72, who injured his back falling twenty feet from a concert stage three weeks ago, has been transferred by air to a hospital near his San Francisco home, where doctors said he would rest before a possible operation.

Bing to stay in hospital

BING CROSBY is to spend a third week in hospital in Pasadena, California, recovering from the effects of a 20-foot fall, a spokesman at the Huntington Memorial Hospital said today.

The 72-year-old entertainer suffered a cut forehead and bruises when he stepped off the stage at the Ambassador College auditorium on March 3. His doctors say he is still suffering acute pain in his legs and lower torso when he tries to stand or walk.

They have ordered complete rest and say he will remain under treatment during the coming week.

BING SINGS TO STORM VICTIMS

BING CROSBY yesterday sang some of his old hits to keep up the spirits of tourists trapped in a hurricane-battered city.

As Bing crooned in a hotel, Hurricane Liza was ripping through La Paz, Mexico.

The old groaner was on his way to his holiday home near La Paz when the storm struck, killing 1,000 people.

Say Mr Crosby...

AT THE age of 72, on stage for a celebration of his 50 years in show business, Bing Crosby suffers a nearly disastrous fall —and comes up wisecracking.

What a guy!

Few people have given more pleasure to more people than this superb entertainer.

The Sun joins the tidal wave of good wishes for a deservedly popular citizen of the world,

Get well soon, Bing!

BING GETTING BETTER

CROONER Bing Crosby, who fell twenty feet from a stage two weeks ago, is suffering from severe bruising which causes him sharp pains in his legs when he tries to stand or walk, a hospital spokesman said today.

Mr. John McCarthy of the Huntingdon Memorial Hospital, Pasadena, California, said the 72-year-old singer was improving every day and was in high spirits.

"But you have to understand his age, and the severity of the bruising," Mr. McCarthy said.

Bing in an Indian cinema

JUST AFTER the war had ended I was attached to a regiment in India.

At that time the campaign for self-government was at its height and riots and sectarian killings abounded

Against this background we were moved to a small town outside New Delhi

Because of the intense heat we were given a week's leave at a hill station way up in the clouds in the Himalayas

The first evening there we visited a small local cinema and before the film began we were entertained by a few unidentifiable records.

A friend and I sauntered into the projection room and began sorting through a pile of records. To our surprise we came across Out of Nowhere by Bing Crosby.

We put it on the record player and the effect was electric. The noise inside stopped and you could have heard a pin drop in that cinema, while Out of Nowhere became a must every evening.

Now every time I hear that record I remember those days in India 30 years ago.

Eric Sherwood, Atlantic Walk, Sheffield.

Continuing Bing's letter to Arthur Blood:

pictures of all the English Kings and Queens since England was first a nation.

Of course, there are a couple who have ruled since then who weren't included but I guess they weren't available.

Its a beautiful thing to have, and very useful, too.

We have a fella working for us named Fisher who is quite an authority on all these things. He once was butler for the Duke of Windsor. He was much interested in the tray.

We certainly thank you for it. I'm glad you liked the Palladium show, and that the album is achieving some currencyaround England.

I like the FEELS GOOD, FEELS RIGHT album very much, although I wish I had the chance to do the title song over again. They played it too slow, really. Dragged out the verse too long.

I use it in the act now as an opening song. Its a great opener, but I picked up the tempo a lot in the verse and its much more effective.

The engagement in New York was quite successful. Very warm and responsive audiences. We did 13 concerts there, and a lot of TV work, too.

Happy to tell you that the parcel arrived intact and we want to extend to you and your family our warmest greetings.

Sincerely yours,
BING. Dec. 30.1976

Editor: A most interesting letter and the remarks about FEELS GOOD will be of particular interest, including the "speeding up" of the number, especially the introductory verse. Fisher, is of course, butler to Bing and factotum as he was to the Duke of Windsor. Bing does appreciate these unique gifts - and we're grateful to Arthur for letting us know about it. It would be nice if Bing saw that lovely portrait one day - in Derby!

The Palladium has a certain mystery surrounding it, I feel. Apart from the non-event of the K-Tel supposed advertising, I've never seen an album disappear from the shops so quickly - almost as if it had been officially withdrawn! Another mystery is that the album doesn't seem to have been issued in the States; at least, letters from US members indicate this. Surely it would have "novelty" appeal there as well as the Crosby appeal?

As for the TV advertising in this part of the world it was pathetic - seen only once and then it was just too fragmentary. Its very puzzling when you consider how they relentlessly plug some records on the box - often to the point when you feel you wouldn't buy the record if they PAID you. Something seems to have gone wrong - but can hazard no guess as to what.

Thanks to all those readers who quickly reminded me of Bing's "lost" two-bob Bet! Hmmm...I had momentarily forgotten the delightful little epidsode with Anne Shelton. Especial thanks to Arnold Baker of Bangor who sent me a delightful - and beautifully re-recorded tape.....

TRADING POST

Here is where you can add to, or dispose of, or exchange records, tapes, photographs, etc. etc. Your items are welcome - but try and keep them brief.....or we'll be short on other material!

R.S.JONES, 37/39 Gladtone Street, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear: I would like to obtain complete film SOUNDTRACKS of the following:

HERE IS MY HEART: MISSISSIPPI: TWO FOR TONIGHT: THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936: RHYTHM ON THE RANGE: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN: WAIKIKI WEDDING: DOUBLE OR NOTHING: EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN: DOCTOR RHYTHM: PARIS HONEYMOON: THE STAR MAKER: IF I HAD MY WAY: HOLIDAY INN: DIXIE: GOING MY WAY: THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S: BLUE SKIES: OUT OF THIS WORLD: WELCOME STRANGER: THE EMPEROR WALTZ: VARIETY GIRL: A CONNECITCUT YANKEE AT KING ARTHUR'S COURT: TOP O' THE MORNING: RIDING HIGH: MR. MUSIC: JUST FOR YOU: ROAD TO BALI: LITTLE BOY LOST: I SURRENDER DEAR.

I have a number of soundtracks of other Bing films if anyone is interested. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who has the above s/tracks on tape.

MASTER DAVID WARD, 51 St. Andrews St., Lincoln, Lincs: WANTED (if possible, David adds pessimistically) a copy of the Palladium brochure-programme. If anyone has a spare I am willing to pay double the price for one.

(Editor: I should tell you that David is a schoolboy taking "A" and "O" levels and likely to be at school for a few more years. He told me (not for publication, that he just couldn't afford to go to the Palladium. That's breaking his trust, I'm sorry to say, but if it helps him get what he is seeking, I'll chance it. Unfortunately, I've long disposed of the dozen I brought back - and tho' the brochure said further copies were available from the Paterson office, they were pessimistic about sales for on early enquiry, all the copies had gone. It was certainly a remarkable souvenir.) You will read more from David elsewhere.....

WM. COCKBURN, 34 Diamond Str., Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 8RX: I have spare copies of the following Bing LPs for exchange - all mint: MR. CROSBY & MR. MERCER: LOUIS ARMSTRONG & BING ON STAGE: MR. CROSBY AT HIS EXTRA SPECIALE: THE SPECIAL MAGIC OF BING & SATCHMO: no. 5 OF THE WORLD RECORDS BOXED SET "BING SINGS IRVING BERLIN. I want SINATRA LPS: SING AND DANCE WITH F. SINATRA: BROADWAY KICK: REFLECTIONS: LONDON BY NIGHT: MOVIE SONGS.

Peter Robinson, 55 Rosebery Rd., Exeter, Devon, has practically all copies of THE CROSBY COLLECTOR (a one-time contemporary publication of BING now seemingly defunct) and offers them to anyone who wants them. It would cost a lot to post these for they are a good weight; perhaps a member in the South West may wish to call and collect - or anyone else, for that matter. (Editor: Postage would indeed be an expensive item, not to mention the trouble of packing them. On the other hand, the COLLECTOR always made good reading for Crosby fans.)

DAVID NEWBOLD, 7 Moyra Drive, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6FH: Good prices paid for any of the following LPs, mono or stereo: ON THE HAPPY SIDE (WARNER); 101 GREAT SONGS PART 1 (Warner); SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS(DEC.8374); IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN (BRUNS). Singles: GIGI/THE NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS (Bruns. 05770).

ANDREW RODGERS, 131 Allan St., H/56 F/10, Glasgow wants BING'S HOLLYWOOD Nos. 6, 7, 12 and 15 to complete the set, if anyone can help please? (Andrew is one of our "juniors" and was delighted to pick up Nos. 3 and 11 of this series in good condition while "scouting thro' a secondhand market" - 50p each!! Good scouting....)

FRANK McALLISTER, 9N Hollywood Drive, Harrisburg, PA. 17109, USA would like to know if anyone has REPRISE 6127 - BING, DINO 'N DIXIE; also HIGH TOR DL 8272 and would gladly pay a fair price for them. He has fair amount for exchange too. (NOTE: The LPography about to be published suggests there is considerable doubt that the Reprise

album does exist. - Editor).

DAVID NEWBOLD, 7 Moyra Drive, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6FH: Good prices paid for any of the following LPs, mono or stereo:

ON THE HAPPY SIDE Warner; 101 GREAT SONGS PART 1 WS 8034;
SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS : IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN. And the single: GIGI/ NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS (BRUNS. 5770) - And what a lovely single this is, both sides beautifully rendered with lovely orchestrations . My goodness me, there's a mountain of lovely material STILL not issued on LP - Editor)

MRS. ENA HOOLEY, 5 Olivers Battery Caravan Park, Winchester, Hants, SO22 4HG wants some stunning old-timers!

MISSISSIPPI MUD '28 Trumbauer.
MISSISSIPPI MUD '28 Whiteman (Taylor, RBGFY)
MISSISSIPPI MUD '27 Rhythm Boys/piano.

OL' MAN RIVER '28 Whiteman
OLD BLACK JOE '29 Whiteman.
BENCH IN THE PARK '30 Whiteman RB, piano.

OLD BLACK JOE, of course, was never available on 78; but like the others above, is available on LP. Ena adds: Records if possible, if not, cassette!

BOB JONES, 39 Gladstone St., Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 2XD has for exchange the Musidic album BING CROSBY, HIS GREATEST HITS 1946/52 (CV 1356) unplayed MINT. He is looking for the HOLIDAY IN EUROPE (Bruns) album.

(Whoever entitled that Musidisc album either knew little about Bing - or has a wonderful sense of humour describing those as Bing's "greatest hits"! - Editor)

MRS. MARY WHITAKER, 148 Montague Avenue, Leeds, LS8, 2RJ W. YORKS has the following LPs for exchange, they are in excellent condition: SONGS I WISH I HAD SUNG (CP26); AMONG MY SOUVENIRS (AH 90) AND "BING GOES LATIN" 2354-028

LES BRICE, 5 Rush Green Gdns, Romford, Essx : WANTS LA 8595 BLUE OF THE NIGHT; LA LA 8620 /LA 8624 DOWN MEMORY LANE VOLS 1/2; LA 8656 WAY BACK HOME; LA 8666 GEORGE GERSHWIN SONGS; LA 8674 BING SINGS THE HITS; LA 8646 YOURS I MY HEART ALONE; LAT 8331 IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN; DL 5298 BING SINGS THE SONG HITS; DL 8374 SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS; DECCA VOC. 3769 BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN. LES has for trade LAT 8118 ANY-THING GOES; AH 130 MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY; DAYBREAK 2932 A TIME TO BE JOLLY; CPS I LOVE YOU TRULY; CPS 90 I'LL SING YOU A SONG OF THE ISLANDS; MGM 2351 003 BING & SATCHMO, 45 MGM 1107 MUSKRAT RAMBLE/ DARDANELLA; US DECCA 7-34184 mini LP 6 tracks MERRY CHRISTMAS.

MRS. S. GARWOOD, 68 Gravelly Bank, Lightwood, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent has what must I fear be a forlorn hope: She wants WHEN YOU'RE AWAY/THINE ALONE On Bruns. 02850 for powerful sentimental reasons. This has appeared on the 10" LA 8600 but not since. Furthermore, "being retired, I cannot afford a tape-recorder or cassette-player". It is only fair to add that many members would like to have this record, too.

Thanks to member RAY TOREY, I have BING Nos. 41/42/43/44 (all 1976's issues) and therefore covering Bing's Palladium appearance to offer; some of the newer members particularly wanted these. As a small fund-raiser the first £2 secures, but send no cash until notified.

MR. P.A. FOWKES, 414 Kedleston Rd. Allestree, Derby wants Bing Decca, Victor, Bruns-wick, HMV and Columbia 78rpm records in V.good/mint condition. He has many Bruns. 78s to swop or sell. "Wants" list to address given, SAE appreciated.

GEOFF. MILNE, 231 Woodmansterne Rd., London, SW16 5TY has for sale a complete set of the BING CROSBY STORY (14 LPS) transcription pressings as broadcast by the BBC in 1973.

George Harwood, 5 Glebe Rd., Kemingford Grey, Huntington, PE18 9DS has six copies of A COUPLE OF SONG AND DANCE MEN UA 29888, price £1.35p each plus postage

Edw. J. Wanat, Snr., 393 George Urban Boulevard, Cheektowaga, New York, 14225, USA has an extensive range of 78s, 45s and LPs to exchange - far too numerous to list here. All are American labels and he wants British Bing releases. Here is a fine opportunity for a US/British exchange friendship.

Trevor Wagstaff, 49 Dawes Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex, RM12 6AJ wants THE A-Z OF BING CROSBY in good condition. Good price paid.

(This is a good point to remind members that, with the LP-ography well on the way to completion - see elsewhere in this issue - a revised A-Z is probably next on the list).

DAVID WEBSTER, "Ardnish", 26 Ness Rd., Fortrose, Ross-Shire: I am looking for the record "WHITE CHRISTMAS", film version, with Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera Ellen; also one where Bing sings with, possibly, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra called "It started in...(I can't remember what comes next!"

Quiz thrown in free there! What IS that number....?

A new Bing Collector desperately wants albums/EPs etc., old and new by Mr. C. I have dozens of albums by other artists ranging from Andrews Sisters to Edward Woodward for exchange; also nostalgia/big bands/soundtracks/cast albums. If interest please write for lists - exchanges only. If you have no Crosby, I would consider Sinatra and/or Jolson: Terry Wardrope, 44 Melloch Cres., Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, FK13 6QJ

Terry told us the following in an accompanying letters: I saw an advert. for S/H records and sent off for lists. Lo! and behold, joy of joys, there almost obscured by the T. Rex, James Brown, Rolling Stones &c. was - LAT 8216 A CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING. But wait for it...what's wrong? The price was 20p! Couldn't believe my eyes but of course sent off my remittance with all possible speed, hoping against hope I wouldn't be too late. I wated with bated breahh and after two weeks a package arrived (post/packing was 40p! by the way)

Now, naturally I didn't expect a brand new album; in fact, I should have known it would have been an incredible bargain if it was tolerable to play. When I unwrapped it:

(a) The packing consisted of two sheets of newspaper.
(b) the record had no cover.
(c) the inner sleeve was just a tattered scrap
(d) the record itself was completely obscured by scratches, and looked as if it had been used as a hot tea-pot stand.

Brushing my tears away, I gingerly put it on the player. And thro' the extraneous noises there, unmistakeably, was the voice of Bing - triumphant! No matter if I get a new copy of that album, I shall keep this tattered wreck for it will remind me, give me proof, that Bing on record can triumph over all adversity!

The only thing that puzzles me, and saddens me, is how any person could let a Crosby record get into such a state?

Editor: Apart from echoing Terry's final question, how can anyone advertise such a record for sale? Still, we don't carry adverts. like that in BING (I hope!) But members should be warned that tho' Terry's financial loss was small, it is quite easy to be "taken for a ride" when buying second hand records. So beware! One can get not only disappointment, but real financial loss. I need hardly add, being in a sermonising mood, that I rely totally on the integrity of our members when they use the facilities of TRADING POST. Here endeth .....

PAUL MORRISON, Kirby Villa, Dene Crescent, Rowlands Gill, TYNE & WEAR NE39 IDS - wanted, back nos. of BING (2--42). I'm willing to buy or I have cassettes of Bing's radio shows with Al Jolson for exchange.

Can anyone let me have CASSETTES of the soundtracks of THE JOLSON STORY and JOLSON SINGS AGAIN: please contact J. N. Shutler, 15 Verwood Drive, Binstead, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

(Editor: I have a feeling the two above could get together!)

NEIL O'BRIEN, 4 WYCHBURY ST. SPREYDON, CHRISTCHURCH 2, NEW ZEALAND has for exchange: LAT 8044 WHITE CHRISTMAS (VG); MCA MAPS 8206 EASY TO REMEMBER (NZ release) mint; LAT 8505 HOLIDAY IN EUROPE (mint), and LAT 8281 BING CROSBY SINGS (mint). Neil wants: LAT 8228 BING AND THE DIXIELAND BANDS: AH 164 BING - RARE STYLE; R 5031 THE SUMMIT; LAT 8154 HIGH TOR, and AH 122 BING IN PARIS.

If you have any records that want a long ride, here's their chance!

Our illustrious correspondent, BERT BISHOP wants HIGH TOR and LE BING. He has for disposal: BING'S HOLLYWOOD - new condition. You will see Bert's address at the front of the magazine.

MR. H. R. LANGFORD, Coombe Cottage, Oxford Rd., Tatling End, Gerrards Cross, Bucks (Phone Gerrards Cross 88238) has Bing's 78s BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME/ YOU'RE STILL IN MY HEART, and PLEASE/HERE LIES LOVE (B.1434 and B.1380 respectively) He also has records by Ambrose, BBC Dance Orch., Roy Fox, Layton & Johnstone &c., for offer - callers would be more convenient.

Not strictly TRADING POST but - well, see: From Alston W. Sutton, 1071 Perkins Way, Sacramento, Calif. 95818, USA: I am having a lot of fun with two of my Crosby projects - one collecting sheet music (with Bing's picture on the cover), and sheet music of songs that mention Bing's name somewhere in the lyrics. This latter leads into my other big project, collecting records that mention Bing in the lyrics, and transcribing the lyrics so they can be issued in a small booklet form.

Just as I think I've finished, I find more songs...I did a mock-up of the booklet and sent it to Bing who replied that he found it rather interesting since he was not aware that this was an area that could tempt a collector. He has always evidenced a genuine interest in the things that his admirers find to do to further their collections. I have had many pleasant contacts via mail with Crosby people in England...

Editor: We've often run articles on that sort of thing: many songs mention Bing in the lyric - without thinking for more than a moment there is THESE FOOLISH THINGS (...the song that Crosby sings...these foolish things remind me of you)...WHEN THE GUARDSMAN STARTED CROONING ON PARADE (...I love you sergeant major croons Private Crosby!) - MY KID'S A CROONER (...I think I'll write to Crosby ask him what to do 'cos my kid's a crooner, boo-boo-boo...) and so on. It is true, however, that some singers up-dated THESE FOOLISH THINGS by singing "...the song that PRESLEY sings..." but originally, it was Crosby. Anyway, its a harmless pursuit - and if you're interested I'm sure Alston (who has ANOTHER CROSBY COLLECTOR on all his stationery) would be pleased to hear from you.

It will be seen that members are really taking advantage of the facilities offered by TRADING POST; we hope they will continue to do so. Please keep your advertisement as brief as possible, however. And if possible, put them on a separate piece of paper. This eases the task of compilation - and helps ensure entry. No charge! You can't beat BING! can you?

P.S. Then there's the Mills Bros. OPUS ONE: AN EVEN BING WILL GIVE IT A SWING!

LESLIE GAYLOR WRITES: (Cont from page 6)

So, Japanese or no, this set is a very desirable one, in my opinion, for Bing enthusiasts. If you haven't a friend in the States perhaps it will turn up among the recognised special importers like Dave Carey's.

> There is one point I particularly noticed about the sleeve notes. These state that the master recordings were obtained from Bing's personal archives with reference to the radio programme content. A few years back my good friend, the late Bob Roberts sent me a copy of a letter he had received from Bing in which Mr. C stated that while he had most of his records at home, he had none of his radio shows and that he, Bing, would be pleased if Bob could send him a selection of them.
>
> Bob, ever helpful as most of us know, ran off quite a number of his best quality radio shows and promptly send them off to Bing.
>
> And it is my guess that Bob's tapes were the ones used on this HRB set of four records.

Ken Barnes and his wife Anne attended one of Frank Sinatra's concerts in London at the time of Bing's accident - in fact, it was the night after Bing's fall. Frank spoke affectionately of the Old Man "who made it possible for all of us guys to make a buck or two in this rough and tumble of singing" (applause); "But," added Frank, "if I've told him once I've told him a hundred times - don't wear those spiked golfing shoes on stage!"

Many newer members have asked me what Bing SINLGES are currently available. Here they are:

TIE A YELLOW RIBBON/ITS NOT WHERE YOU START:	Daybreak DAS 402
CHILDREN/AT MY TIME OF LIFE	United Artists UP 36078
I LOVE TO DANCE LIKE THEY USED TO DANCE/THE GOOD OLD TIMES	United Artists UP 36025
ERES TU/WHERE THE MORNING GLORIES GROW	London HLU 10532
WHAT I DID FOR LOVE/WHEN A CHILD IS BORN	United Artists UP 36178
THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY/THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT	United Artists UP 35852

Finally, Phil Clarke tells me he had a letter from one of our members in the States, Kevin Anderson, who was at the concert which ended with Bing's fall - and thus, indeed, one of our members was one of the first to reach Bing! Kevin says that he doesn't really understand how Bing got away with it for it really was a terrifying fall...but, he did and that's the main thing. Remember, Bing is a resolute character and can bob up in amazing fashion. Look what happened after that quite major operation in 1974! Which I feel, is an encouraging note to finish on for this time.

Member, TONY BULMER of 69 Dorset Road, GUISBOROUGH, Cleveland, TS14 7EW has come up with what I think will be an appealing project. No less than a POSTER of Bing. Posters are very much "in" for decorating lounges, dens, studies &c. and shops are offering quite a range. But, as you would expect, they are mainly of the "pop super-stars (sic)" We've already sounded out a number of readers and there is reason to believe the idea could be very popular indeed. Basic facts: the size of the poster will be 25 inches by 17½ inches (measure it out!) and will be in shades of blue OR brown (a choice) and the lettering BING will be beneath the poster-picture, adapted from a favourite pose of Bing's. THE COST WILL BE £1.98p per poster, inclusive of packing, postage and any other costs. Tony has reached the point when he either has to go ahead - or drop the idea; extensive work has already been done and in the opinion of your Editor, it would be a shame to drop it now.

Tony has chosen a present-day pose of Bing "which," he says, "is the way I see Bing - smiling, singing, someone who makes you feel good - and its a picture, I feel, that 'grows on you'." It should be borne in mind in this connection that a poster picture is not normally a reproduced photograph but, shall we say, a re-shaped photograph as the artist sees the subject. I was hoping to reproduce Tony's choice but our processor has not come thro' (I feel he must be on summer vacation) but I feel whatever picture was chosen people would say, possibly, I would have preferred such-and-such a photograph, or picture.

The important thing at this stage is for members who would WANT a poster to write to TONY at the above address IMMEDIATELY in order that he can be definite in his decision - go ahead, or drop the idea. So, though a poster-picture is not a photograpy, nor is it a surrealistic caricature....Please let Tony know immediately.

HERE AND THERE: — THE EDITOR

Letters have been prolific, and amongst all the concern expressed about Bing's back injury, hosts of members are still looking back on and enthusing about the shows at the Palladium last summer... I regret my usual alacrity in replying (when called for) has been somewhat slow or non-existent; this has been due to overwhelming pressure with (a) essential correspondence (b) the mammoth LPography - and of course (c) this issue of BING. The writers are cordially thanked; especially those readers who have taken the trouble to say just how much they appreciate being members of the Crosby Circle.

We mentioned Bing and the possibility of him recording with a small group earlier on; there are plenty of examples of this - the sparkling Buddy Cole efforts, the oddly-named Slow Foot Five, Bob Scobey, not to mention the classic of NOW YOU HAS JAZZ with the immortal Louis; there was the Firehouse Five Plus Two - but only on radio, not commercial record.

> I've been reading, writing, studying, editing!. Crosbyana for umpteen years and seen and raised all kinds of queries, subjects, topics, research, diversions - but I've never seen it raised as to what is the significance of Bing singing: "...DOWN MR. WRIGLEY'S BAY.." in AVALON. With Buddy Cole, of course. I wonder why, for it must have been noticed - and what IS the significance of Mr. Wrigley?

Some of these BC with BC tracks are really fantastic examples of Bing's vocal art: CHICAGO, for instance, a crisp, almost perfect rendering with comparable accompaniment. And I still feel Bing's aside in WHEN I TAKE MY SUGAR TO TEA is probably the most amusing ever when he said, as Buddy is giving out in pyrotechnica style on piano: "What kind of tea-room is THIS?" Pure, yet I'm certain, unconscious Durante. What kind of sedate tea-room indeed!

And if ever I am given the chance - which I won't be unless I produce it myself - the chance to select my own album of Bing to strike a different note I would most certainly include THE NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS, GIGI, NEVER BE AFRAID, and MY OWN INDIVIDUAL STAR - beautiful tracks which have seldom caused a ripple and yet must be among Bing's least-known tracks. This is a travesty of some kind for they really are tremendous records. And let it be said, apart from good melodies and arrangements, all have highly acceptable lyrics. The chances of them appearing on album, except of the kind I mentioned, appear remote. A great pity - like STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE and its likelihood of continuing to be a glaring omission from albums.

I feel, too, its a pity (or surprising) that we don't know more about the writers of that quite remarkable piece of ingenuity - the lyrics of THERE'S NOTHING THAT I HAVEN'T SUNG ABOUT. It really is amazingly contrived and I wonder Bing doesn't use it more often - tho' I suppose in his stage show it would tend to queer the

pitch of the fabulous 'medley' he ends with...However, it is a grand song - we were going to get down to listing all the titles it brings in but didn't get around to it - and Bing puts it over in tremendous style.

And doesn't Al Cohen demonstrate his 'feel' for arrangements in that splendid accompaniment to THE ROSE IN HER HAIR? A lilting, Viennese-sounding arrangement at times. And the complete change for that cracker-jack number, I'VE GOT THAT OLD-FASHIONED LOVE! Really splendid....

Before I give way on these ramblings there's one other thing I'd like to mention. If anyone is doubting whether or not the art of accompanying a vocalist could be a dying art - in the interests of "beat" (which, incidentally, has NOT just been invented!) and showing off the prowess of the "arranger" - I would recommend them to listen again to that lovely DAY DREAMING Coral of a couple of years back. There are, of course, many albums to illustrate the point but this is a particularly fine collection - beautifully, complementary arrangements - and, mind you, they are songs the "like of which they don't write to-day" - well, not often! Our good friend Geoff. Milne really excelled himself on this one - and he's done some great work for us Crosby fans for years. DAY DREAMING tracks all come from 1939-1942 when Bing already had a dozen years of world-stardom behind him and had progressed to the mature balladeer; not that Bing can be categorised as a "balladeer" or any other single type of singer - for after turning out a song like MAYBE (another of my all-time Bing favourites) he could just as easily do THAT'S A'PLENTY. ..or SOUTH RAMPART ST. PARADE....But while Bing's voice is, as it certainly should,be, as it NATURALLY is, one becomes gently aware of what a fine accompaniment there is, too. But, it is not thrust down your aural tubes (or whatever the ears consist of) so that you find yourself desperately trying to hear the nuances of the Crosby voice against a barrage of quite irrelevant musical quirks.

DAY DREAMING itself, YOU AND I, I'M BUILDING A SAILBOAT OF DREAMS, DO YOU CARE?, YOU ARE THE ONE - pick where you like you cannot go wrong on this album. And the musical directors? Inevitably, Victor Young and John Scott Trotter predominating. Old-fashioned? My answer: these arrangements are timeless - they sound as good now as they did on original issue. I have heard it said that John Scott's - and possibly Victor's - efforts became predictable, stereotyped. May be....but that could be because of the sheer numbers they did for, and with, Bing - over 330 in the case of John Scott, and with Victor around 254. If I remember rightly! These contributions themselves were a colossal achievement in Crosbyana. And amidst all the lovely music they produced they always let you hear the Bing voice in all its glory, its light and shade, its feeling.... And if you feel I'm romancing, put DAY DREAMING on! Now! We must be allowed to wallow - now and then!

What else did I want to say? Oh yes - please forgive me if I haven't replied - or replied in detail - to your letter. I do enjoy them and I don't begrudge a second of the time I spend reading them all. With the LPography out of the way perhaps a more normal service can be resumed.

Regarding the mention of the film ALICE IN WONDERLAND in the last issue of BING, our good friend and film-book compiler writes:

It isn't the first time I've seen mention of this film and Bing in it. But he definitely wasn't. I have a cast list and practically every star that Paramount had on its pay-roll WAS in it - except Bing. I think it must have been assumed he was because of the all-star cast. It was a Paramount production directed by Norman McLeod in 1933 and released on December 22nd of that year. Cary Grant played 'The Mock Turtle' and Gary Cooper was 'The White Knight'. Guess who was 'Humpty Dumpty' - W. C. Fields....

FRED REYNOLDS.

And that, my friends, you can take as the proverbial "gospel".....

BING - A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

by JOHN BIGNELL

John confesses he finds May a rather confusing months; and while it is certain that he anticipates the new SEASONS album as much as anybody, he points out that, like most things Bing, it has been done before....

Writing as one whose three main hobbies, Soccer, Cricket and Bing (in reverse alphabetical order) are absorbing enough for the prospect of retirement in 15 years' time, give or take a year, to be viewed with great anticipation and optimism, I have to admit that May is a most confusing and eventful month for me. There is the merging of the seasons - and my county of Middlesex (for whom 1976 was a halcyon year) have already made a fine start to the new campaign, while my footballclub - North Greenford United - has only just ended THEIR season. So, it is almost into June before one can adjust one's attention and (taking time out for the England v Scotland football international) concentrate fully on the summer game.

And what has this to do with Bing, as anyone who has got this far, is entitled to enquire? Well, 2nd May, of course, is his birthday, so even if he had been out of the news and just slightly in the background for a few weeks he cannot be completely overlooked even in my busiest month of the year. And talking of seasons leads us neatly into the topic of the Seasons of the year. Doubts are, not unnaturally, being expressed about Bing's presence here this year and thus his ability to record the projected album on that subject. I personally do not share the pessimism. Latest reports indicate he is following medical advice sensibly and regularly with plenty of long walks and hot baths, coupled with the Californian, not to mention the Mexican, sunshine I see no reason to doubt that the Crosby family will be taking up residence in these islands in July and August once again.

But, in any case, with reference to a Seasons album, it has probably not escaped anyone's notice that our man, who has recorded just about every type of song in his 50-year career, has already done enough songs on the Seasons theme to make up at least a double LP. Contractual and copyright problems excepted, the list given below covers twenty-eight titles which take us right through the year. And after studying the listed titles, can it be denied that Bing is essentially relevant to all times of the year - veritably a Man for All Seasons:

1.	A Marshmallow World	(Sonny Burke)	1950
2.	Looks Like a Cold, Cold, Winter	(Sonny Burke)	1950
3.	The First Snowfall	(Buddy Cole)	1955
4.	June in January	(Georgie Stoll)	1934
5.	Winter Wonderland	(Thompson, Halloran and Matz)	1962
6.	The White World of Winter	(Sonny Burke)	1965
7.	We'll Gather Lilacs in the Spring again	(Camarata)	1945
8.	When the White Alaleas start Blooming	(Victor Young)	1942
9.	April Showers	(Jack Pleis)	1956
10.	April in Portugal	(Malcolm Lockyer(?)	1961
11.	Easter Parade	(J.S.Trotter)	1942
12.	Its Anybody's Spring	(J.S.Trotter)	1944
13.	Spring, Spring, Spring	(Pete Moore)	1975
14.	I'll Remember April	(J.S.Trotter)	1944
15.	April Played the Fiddle	(J.S.Trotter)	1940
16.	With Summer Coming On	(Lennie Hayton)	1932
17.	June Comes Around every Year	(J.S.Trotter)	1944
18.	Summertime	(Matty Malneck)	1938
19.	Watermelon Weather	(Vic Schoen)	1952
20.	Heat Wave	(Pete Moore)	1975
21.	In the Good old Summertime	(J.S.Trotter)	1954
22.	Sleigh Ride in July	(J.S.Trotter)	1944

23.	Indian Summer	(J.S.Trotter)	1951
24.	The Things we did Last Summer	(Jimmy Dorsey)	1946
25.	September in the Rain	(Buddy Bregman)	1956
26.	Autumn Leaves	(Axel Stordahl)	1950
27.	September Song	(J.S.Trotter)	1943
28.	Let's Start the New Year Right	(Bob Crosby)	1942

(Note: A query is put against Malcolm Lockyer as doubt has been expressed as to whether or not the album was not re-recorded in America. This first session in London naturally attracted a lot of attention in 1961. The album concerned, HOLIDAY IN EUROPE, credits no musical director - but it does name Bob Thompson as the arranger. And he is assuredly American. And we have no desire to be unfair or churlish to the late Malcolm Lockyer, a fine British musician, who passed away only a few months ago at a grievously early age).

BING IN EUROPE - In its wider sense....

Bing's appearance at the Palladium last year was widely reported; even so, we were mildly surprised when Edw. Stuirup told us he found a full review of the first night when he reached Singapore next morning! And certainly nearer home it brought an interesting press - Pierre Bugnot who lives at 19 Rue du Dr. Acquavia, 13004, Marseille and is always pleased to hear from Crosby admirers - kindly went to the trouble of interpreting for us a story that appeared in LE MONDE, the largest evening paper of Paris:

"AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM: BING CROSBY'S FIFTY YEARS OF SINGING

by Claude Fleouter

There has been for two weeks an amazing show at the London Palladium; for nearly three hours an old man of 72 whose face belongs to the Hollywoodian mythology is singing - and the voice perfectly intact which delivers a ballad far from the microphone with imperial nonchalance and ease, brings nostalgia to the popular audience of all ages who have come every night to fill the London theatre.

Hardly as the old man time to sing the very first notes and words of a song when the audience spontaneously sings along with him. Are then successively heard PENNIES FROM HEAVEN: JUST ONE MORE CHANCE: - ballds the old man had once chosen to croon because most obviously anyone and sing them. The audience is with heart and hands with the old man. Bing Crosby is celebrating his fifty years in show business.

It all began in 1926 with Paul Whiteman, who directed then a famous orchestra which used to play some kind of turgid jazz music in spite of the presence of such musicians as Frankie Trumbauer and Bix Beiderbecke. Crosby brings then a new style of singing; he doesn't howl like Al Jolson, he isn't lyrical; he treats a melody gently, with great care; knows how to deal with a song and with apparent ease takes advantage of the least word, the least note. With a voice soft and warm, and broken tones, too, Crosby naturally created a new style of singer - the crooner.

His success will be exceptional. Even today he remains the champion in every field of record sales. Four hundred millions sold for the Decca label only, without counting those made for other companies. Thirty million copies of one single song - WHITE CHRISTMAS - (yet unparalleled today) - a total of four thousand songs recorded in 50 years.

A Hollywood star for more than 30 years, the most popular screen actor in the 'Forties, Bing Crosby had more or less retired from show business in 1961, keeping himself busy with his varied enterprises in oil and uranium, orange

juice, building societies, motor-racing tracks and show producing.

Without doubt (1) the success met by THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT somehow forced Crosby's hand. Its the first time he's singing in a regular show in London accompanied by an orchestra of 30 musicians. And its a real show, based on the story of his life in songs, supported by Rosemary Clooney, his wife Kathryn Grant who sings and dances occasionally, his latest three children, aged from 16 to 19 - Nathaniel Crosby, Mary Frances Crosby and Harry Crosby III who sings with Bing and then plays the guitar on a Carole King song.

Bing Crosby sings abundantly, tells anecdotes, raises his hat to his old friend Louis Armstrong and spares no trouble with the easiness of the great professionals.

This show is a lesson even for those who - like us - have in mind the songs of Bob Dylan and Elton John.

(acknowledge to LE MONDE July 4, 1976)

Our translator Pierre notes:

(1) The success in France of THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT (I AND II) has nothing to do with Bing's "comeback" on the stage - Claude Fleuuter doesn't seem to be aware of the fact that Bing in 1974 had been very close to death and had faced the worst crisis of his long life. After his remarkable recovery when he found he could sing even better than before, it gave him a completely new outlook on life. Bing's brilliant come-back to the stage and in the recording studios is the result of that special awareness that comes with a close brush with death.

PIERRE BUGNOT.

Editor: This is a bit late - and we're sorry for that but its still most interesting and we're grateful to Pierre for his trouble. He was in Britain in 1975/6 and found to his delight he could pick up more Crosby records than back at home... in Marseille. But, I'm wondering if he does the Entente Cordiale any good when he writes, in addition to his LE MONDE translation:

Guess what? I'm listening to the 1945 recording of THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT which SHOULD have been heard on the recent MFP of that name...I've got it on a very old French Decca album (Decca UM 233126) now, of course, out of sale...and called LE BLEU DE LA NUIT, naturally. I would really like to get No. 41 of BING...any chance? As far as I see it from the previous issue SOUTHERN MEMOIR was bitterly reviewed by Mr. Bristol! How dare you! Its Bing at his very best - I like it better than AT MY TIME OF LIFE. Precisely BECAUSE of Paul's Smith's wonderful backing. Makes me think of Bing's new tracks and he sounds even better than he did them! Bing has always been great on fast or swinging tempos,when his voice articulates with all the flexibility and punchy warmth of a well played string bass. His sense of phrasing is at its very best on this album and he really seems to enjoy singing with so gifted musicians.....

I don't agree with your comments either on GREAT DAY and its "crashing finale" no need to leap for the volume control! I always play my records on a splendid Bang and Olufsen Hi-Fi (expensive) set. I can assure you the sound on this track is very well-balanced - and what about Bing's splendid album with Basie in 1972?

About 3 years ago I came across in a second-hand book shop in London - THE STORY OF BING CROSBY told by Ted Crosby in 1937, revised edition of April 1946 - and there's a message printed in the inner cover which says:

(cont. over....

"The errant cat, though long astray,
Comes home at last, one day.
Oh may this book, when lent, be feline
Enough to make a homward bee-line!

Bill and Marge Mundy"

Well Bill and Marge, your book is safe and in good hands - for ever! But, it will NEVER come back to you. I paid £7 for it - but it remains priceless....

Pierre.

Editor: Cor, Crumbs! And he called me Mr. Bristo. Used to be Reg....I do hope Pierre remains mon bon ami! Entente Cordiale be dam'ed....but, joking aside, I am perfectly well aware that many share Pierre's views on the updated, noisy, quirky albums - ill-balanced too! And that's fine. Worries me not. Room for all shades of opinion. One man's meat, indeed, is certainly another man's poisson? Which for non-French speakers is terribly subtle.... Oh, I don't play my records on a wind-up horn gramophone, either! GREAT DAY still makes me cower.....

Pierre wondered if Bill and Marge Mundy are in the ICC? No, they're not on my register - but it is highly likely some present member will know of them. We'd love to hear - and to find their reaction to Piere's acquisition of their Crosby book; and for them to know it is highly prized - in Marseille.

By the way, Pierre (and your Editor) are well aware there are some errors in the LE MONDE story - but one must make allowances. Its reproduced here exactly as printed in the Franch newspaper.

PS. I wonder if Pierre would care to play DAY DREAMING? Just for me.....

....AND IN THE NETHERLANDS, TOO! largely by NOOR VAN HEEL...

It may not be generally known that among all his other activities last Summer, Bing also went to Holland - to play in the golf tournament. And this was indeed lucky for our charming (trescoharmant?) Noor Van Heel. We used to address this delightful young lady as "nous petite Noor" (our petite Noor) because when she first joined us she was a sweet little schoolgirl! She is still a schoolgirl - in a way - though she has progressed to Leiden University now; she remains equally charming though according to her latest photograph (with Bing no less) - and is well on the way to be an exceedingly charming woman! But, we still think of her as our petite. She sent us many cuttings from Dutch newspapers, all highly reminiscent of our own, showing Bing surrounded by admirers on the golf course; and in pensive mood whilst studying a shot, and so on. Clearly Bing received similar sort of reception in Holland that he receives here. And Noor confirms this with a most happy story for she writes: (happily for us, in beautiful English!)

> On reading all the stories about Bing and his Palladium performance, I wondered if I ever told you the story of how I came to meet Bing - TWICE IN ONE MONTH! - I don't think I did, so here is the story.
>
> Its a long story, for it was at the beginning of May, 1975 I wrote to the BBC asking if I could please have a ticket for the Michael Parkinson Show. They told me they couldn't send tickets abroad, alas, so among others I asked you whether I could give the BBC your address to send the tickets to. I'd almost given up hope when suddenly I got two tickets for Bing's interview with Michael Parkinson in my leter-box. It really was too good to be true. You can understand I almost jumped a hole in the sky with happiness!

It wasn't until then that I knew the exact date of the programme - and that it would be in five days - 18th of July to be exact. So I rapidly arranged everything and off I went to London. It was really one of the biggest events in all my life! That special atmosphere in the queue before the BBC studios - it sure gave me butterflies. I asked about everyone if they knew whether you (Editor) were coming...this way I came to talk to an ICC member and his wife from Bexhill-on-Sea - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nolan whom you will know. We had a very nice chat and exchanged addresses - and we've been corresponding ever since.

Well, you know all about the interview I guess. It was wonderful. I'll never forget the moment when the orchestra began playing, Bing walked on stage, right down to the mike and began singing! I could scarcely believe it.... When the interview was over I just couldn't resist going after him, while everyone was going to the exit. No-one stopped me so on I went until I ended up at his dressing-room. And there he was! At first I was struck dumb. I had brought him something from Holland for I wanted to have some excuse to see him. So, I gave him the present while my knees were shaking and my hands were trembling. I thanked him for a wonderful show and told him how much I had enjoyed it, stammering and stuttering in the most awful way. But Bing was very, very, kind looking at me with his bright blue eyes. He asked my name and where I came from - and if he could do something for me! He then signed my CALL ME LUCKY for me. I thanked him again and then left for he must have been tired and longing for a rest. Outside, I had to sit down and assimilate what had just happened to me for a while. I was still a bit shaky.

Together with Pam and Harry Nolan and a friend of theirs we - my friend and I - waited for Bing to come outside to leave for his hotel. First Harry, and Nathaniel came out and, after a while, Bing himself stepped outside and people really took a rush at him - just like bees to a honey-jar. Of course, Bing couldn't resist some autographs but understandably he wanted to get to his car and his hotel as soon as possible. I was very glad I already had the two autographs he gave me in his dressing-room for I didn't like the way people were crowding him at all.

Fortune was at my hand for hardly two and a half weeks later, back in Holland, I phoned my mother (from Leiden) and she told me that the papers had the astonishing news that Bing was in Holland! "Why haven't you told me before," I cried, and asked her to read me the piece from the paper. "I was mistaken," said mother, "he isn't coming until tomorrow..." What a relief! Just imagine Bing having been so near in my home country without my being aware of it. Meanwhile, my heart was thumping with excitement and I began planning for the next day. August 7, 1975 and at 9 o'c am I set off for Hilversum where Bing was going to participate in the Pro-Am golf championships. I got from the train, followed the signs and entered the golf-course through the back door! Later on, someone told me how lucky I had been to get in for at the front gates they were having a severe control. Anyway, Bing hadn't arrived yet and I had about two hours to wait. There were a lot of people from the press and all kinds of magazines there. I was asking everyone with a camera if I could order their pictures! I didn't have a camera of my own, and couldn't organise the loan of one at such short notice.

And then Bing arrived with his two sons. I was allowed to be present when Bing and the boys sat down and had a meal - Bing had an egg-salad, a glass of milk and some ice-cream while all the time people were taking a thousand pictures and asking even more questions. He sat very relaxed, answering in kindly fashion the same old questions about his family, his golfing, other artists, &c. Then Bing was away to change, but I asked him again for his autograph and told him once more how I enjoyed his BBC interview - AND HE RECOGNISED ME!

Since there weren't too many people asking for his signature at that particular time I was bold enough to give him two more things to autograph - the BBC ticket and an issue of BING: and guess what he said?

> "Gosh! You're asking a lot...you know you can exchange four of my signatures for one of Sinatra's, don't you?"

He should know better - but everyone roared with laughter.

While Bing was changing I saw two elderly men standing in the hall clutching LP's of Bings; obviously admirers I felt they might be interested in the ICC. It would be a shame if they didn't even know the Circle existed so I went up to them and began chatting and showed them the issue of BING I had brought with me - the one Bing had just autographed. Now, all the people of the press were standing in the hall as well and as soon as they saw BING they began asking me all sorts of questions about my age, how I came to love Bing, etc. etc. I told them everything I could - and asked them to mention the ICC! About five newspapers, and two magazines, did. I haven't had any letters myself, unfortunately, but I think the people of Holland I saw among the new members (in BING) soon afterwards, must have gotten the address thro' the papers here. I did meet another member for sure - Hein Witteveen from Laren. He was very enthusiastic and kept on telling me about the pictures he'd seen and the records he had - even when a golfer was about to hit a ball and I had to keep on shushing him!

Well then, after Bing had changed everybody followed him up to the green. Before he tee'd off he spoke a few words and sang WHERE'S MY CADDIE (I believe), and then I spent a wonderful four and a half hours next to him as he happily went along from hole to hole. He was merrily swinging his clubs and chatting to everyone who wanted to have a chat, including myself. And this time I wasn't so nervous. He really brightened up the whole course in his own special, easy-going manner. And, as far as I can judge, he is such a good golfer.

It was a tremendously hot day and the golfers stopped every now and then for a drink - water, mainly, which gave me the chance to offer Bing a glass which he heartily accepted.

Halfway round, he did a small interview for the radio and the man who interviewed him was almost as nervous as I'd been the first time. When it was broadcast later you could hear him say "....can you imagine that! Me standing next to B-b-bing C-c-crosby!"

At the end of the game he did another interview for Dutch TV and one of the TV men asked him if he would sing something - which he did! Bing walked to the mike and everyone was closing in around him in a circle and joining him. Happily, I was right beside him, joiningin as he sang ITS TULIP TIME IN HOLLAND, ZING A LITTLE ZONG, TRUE LOVE, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN...every time it rains it rains...." then he looked at his watch: "Don't you know my plane is leaving for Heaven" all to the melody! Wonderful. And then he was about to go, after he'd sung WHITE CHRISTMAS on a day when everyone was wiping their forehead it was so hot....

I felt I just couldn't let him walk off like that...and I went after him to say "Goodbye". We shook hands and he asked me to spell out my name so that he wouldn't forget it - and he told me to take good care of my FEET and perhaps to buy myself a new pair of shoes!! Since it was such a hot day I hadn't put on any stockings that morning. Rather quickly I had five blisters on each foot for the rest of the day onto which I'd put some plasters...and as I'd walked barefoot for the rest of the day on sand and grass you could hardly see my skin and my feet were as black as coal! So my feet were rather

conspicuous and with all the plasters, they must have looked much worse than they really were. Certainly Bing was quick to spot them - and very kindly told me to take good care of them. He was, of course, aware that I'd spent those hours walking around the course with no shoes or stockings!

What a great day it was! I got about 50 pictures from different people I'd met during that marvellous day, and most of them were really great,...

So, my story about Bing in Holland.

When I wrote to the Palladium for tickets they told me they had had thousands of applications and that they were all gone. So you can understand my feelings when I had a letter from my friends, Pam and Harry Nolan telling me they had tickets for me if I wanted them. If I WANTED them! So, not only did I come to see one of those wonderful concerts, but also spent a lovely day at Bexhill-on-Sea, with my friends the Nolans.

Editor: Noor confesses her story was "rather late" - you will have noticed the main part was in 1975 and not last year as I said. But isn't it a lovely story. By a very smart Dutch girl in very, very good English - and in a style which really enables us to share her exciting day with Bing. So late or not, I feel you would have enjoyed it, hence its inclusion. One might say it all suddenly came true for Noor - and in her exciting telling she reveals that Bing gets much the same treatment wherever he goes. Which is a lovely thought.... and we couldn't be happier for Noor that her fairy-story really happened.

LETTERS

GEOFF. ROBINSON, 104 Widney Lane, Solihull, Warwickshire: I don't know whether you have heard, since I haven't seen it reported in the papers, but on the evening of our visit to the Palladium, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and a large party of friends attended and sat directly behind ourselves. Bing certainly has many admirers! I overheard the Duchess say she could have listened all night!

Editor: No, we didn't know that - but we're glad to.

STAN WILLCOX, 21 The Littleway, Leicester: In answer to the query from Les Street (March issue) ref. STAR NIGHT AT THE COCONUT GROVE, I saw this film at a local cinema, The Trocadero, late in 1936 or early 1937 (which dates me!) as a fill-in to the feature film. This was a small privately-owned cinema which often came up with features ignored or overlooked by the big groups.

STAR NIGHT was not advertised unless you consider "also full supporting programme" an advert., it was a lucky chance that I visited this cinema. I am almost certain the song Bing sang was I SAW STARS - 40 years is a long time to throw back the memory. Another point is that this was the first time I had seen Bing in colour.

Editor: 40 years plus and Stan is quite right - as we said in the last issue. But Stan would seem to confirm that despite the doubts about the song being WITH EVERY BREATH I TAKE, it was I SAW STARS. And the film was released in March, 1936 - so right again Stan.

YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE NOTICED THAT THIS ISSUE CONTAINS TWO PAGES 5 and 6. This was due to the need for urgent rearrangement, coupled with the desire NOT to waste valuable paper. Thus, though this issue appears to end at Page 50, it does consist of 52 pages. Reading continuity is not affected in any way.

LAST PAGE BLUES DISPELLED WITH GOOD NEWS! Those who read the magazine from back to front are lucky for right in the nick of time, goodnews is to hand - and for all those who have been writing saying "I haven't had my June BING!" this page is being completed on 16th June. Then it has to be assembled, enveloped, stamped - and posted. So, you can judge by the time you hear it thro' the letter-box. KEN BARNES HAS TOLD LESLIE GAYLOR THAT HE HOPES TO BE HERE IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER! He will be here to record a Christmas TV show and to complete Ken's SEASONS ALBUM. His progress is GOOD, we hear, but (as to be expected) slow... And we also hear there is every likelihood that Bing will sign an EXCLUSIVE contract with Polydor - and the SEASONS album will be the first issue if it comes off. Bing has been in his Mexico home AND getting about....The BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES LP is scheduled for September release on United Artists....All of this shpuld certainly raise spirits all round...

Don't forget: You can get ICC ties (dark blue, with the "silhouette" of Bing in gold) for £1.50p from Baxters, The Badge Centre, Ropergate, Pontefract, Yorks....

WRITE to Tony Bulmer if you want the "poster" idea to be a success... AND, reserve your order for the mammoth LP-ography now nearing completion - £2.50p to Reg Bristo. It will NOT be by return of post (as I write) but not all that long afterwards....

AND NOW I MUST DESCRIBE THIS AS "IMPORTANT": We were within sight of posting this issue when - new (upwards of course) postage charges came in. True, it results in another 4p per member per year (making 48p to post the mag four times a year). We did NOT take cognisance of the last postal rises; nor have we jumped on the inflation bandwagon despite steadily increases in costs for paper, ink, stencils, envelopes, etc. etc. We were quite willing to TRY and absorb these increases because of the happy influx of new members - and so far so good: we've managed. Now however, there is no alternative to increasing the annual subscription from £1.80p to £2.00 - if you care to remit cash there need be little increase for you will save expensive poundage. This does NOT mean everyone now sends 20p extra; but, when renewing, you must renew at the new rate. Regrettable but inevitable - and delayed as long as possible.

GORDON THOMAS, 50 Barnstock, Bretton, Peterborough (Phone 0733-267833) badly wants BING Nos. 42, 43, and 45. He has for sale THE PALLADIUM DOUBLE ALBUM in excellent condition (virtually new) £2.40p incl. packing and postage.

"Could you please help me to trace one of Bing's oldies....LOVE IN BLOOM? I would love to hear it again. It was played on my wedding day in the 'Thirties. My husband is now dead but I would love to have that record again...I've been told it is on an autobiography set - but as a pensioner, that is beyond my reach. I've always been a fan of dear old Bing's and if anyone has a copy they could let me have at a reasonable price I would be eternally grateful... Mrs. Sarah Probert, 7 Sorrell Rd. Weedswood Estate, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent...

Sarah is NOT a member of ICC - but hers is one of those letters I often get out of the blue. I just don't have a spare of LOVE IN BLOOM - and I've ascertained that the lady doesn't have a tape-recorder. Sounds a genuine case if anyone can help....

We don't often use letters like this but this struck a really nice chord: "I would like to place on record my warmest thanks to you and the dedicated band who ensure the publication of BING. I belong to many associations, trade and sport, and without hesitation I can say that your publication is far more interesting than any other I receive...the news about new Bing albums, always a problem to me hitherto, is a particular feature of great satisfaction..." LEN ANDERSON, 96 Plantation Rd. Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3DZ

And - that's it!